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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIV. PITTSBURGH, TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 30, 1877. NO. 121.

The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

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FIRST EDITION.

ELECTORAL BILL

A Message from the President,

Giving His Reasons for Approving the Bill.

WASHINGTON, January 29.—Following is the text of the President's message concerning the Electoral bill:

To the Senate and House of the United States:

I follow the example here often occasionally presented, of communicating in this mode my approval of the act to provide for and regulate the counting of votes for President and Vice President, and the decision of questions arising therein, because of my appreciation of the imminent peril to the institutions of the country from which, in my judgment, the act affords a wise and constitutional means of escape. For the first time in the history of the country under the Constitution as it now is, a dispute exists with regard to the result of an election of Chief Magistrate of the nation. It is understood that upon the disposition of the disputes touching the electoral votes cast at the late election by one or more of the States depends the question whether one or the other of the candidates for the Presidency is the lawful Chief Magistrate. The importance of having clearly ascertained by a procedure regulated by law which of the two citizens has been elected, and of having his right to the high office duly recognized and cheerfully agreed in by all the people of the Republic, cannot be overestimated, and leads me to express to Congress and to the nation my great satisfaction at the adoption of a measure that affords an orderly means of decision of the gravely exciting questions. While the history of our country in its earlier periods shows that the President of the Senate has counted the votes and declared their standing, our whole history shows that in no instance of doubt or dispute has he exercised the power of deciding, and that the two Houses of Congress have disposed of all such doubts and disputes, although in no instance hitherto have they been such that their decision could have affected the result. For the first time, then, the Government of the United States is now brought to meet the question as one vital to the result, and this under conditions not best calculated to produce agreement or to induce calm leading in the several branches of the Government or among the people of the country. In a case where, as now, the result is involved, it is only the highest duty of the law-making power to provide in advance a constitutional, orderly and just method of executing the Constitution. In this most interesting and critical clause of its provisions, the doing so, far from being a compromise of right, is an enforcement of right and an execution of the powers conferred by the Constitution on Congress. I think that this orderly method has been secured by the bill, which, appealing to the Constitution and law as a guide in ascertaining the rights, provides the means of deciding questions of single returns through the direct action of Congress, and in respect to double returns by a tribunal of impartial whose decisions stand, unless both Houses of Congress shall concur in determining otherwise, thus securing the definite disposition of all questions of dispute in whatever aspect they may arise. With or without this law, as all of the States have voted and as a tie vote is impossible, it must be that one of the two candidates has been elected, and it would be deplorable to witness an irregular controversy as to which of the two should receive or which should continue to hold office. In all periods of history controversies have arisen as to the succession or choice of chiefs of States, and no party or citizen active in their country and its free institutions can sacrifice too much of mere feeling in preserving, through the upright course of law, their country from the smallest danger to its peace on such occasion, and it cannot be impressed too firmly in the hearts of all people that true liberty and real progress can exist only through the most rigid adherence to constitutional law. The bill purports to provide only for the settlement of questions arising from the recent election. The fact that such questions can arise demonstrates the necessity, which I cannot doubt will before long be supplied, of permanent general legislation to meet cases which have been unanticipated in the Constitution or laws of the country. The bill may not be perfect, and its provisions may not be such as would have been available to all on some occasions; but it is calculated to meet the present condition of the questions and of the country. The country is agitated. It needs and desires peace and quiet and harmony between all parties and all sections. Its industries are arrested, labor unemployed, capital and enterprise paralyzed, by reason of the doubt and anxiety attending the uncertainty of a double claim to the Chief Magistracy of the nation. It wants to be assured that the result of the election will be accepted without resistance from the supporters of the disappointed candidate, and that its highest officer shall not hold his place with a disputed title of right. Believing that the bill will secure these ends, I give it my signature.

U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, January 29, 1877.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

Sam Brewer, a Cherokee, at Gibson Station, Cherokee Nation, on Friday had both his legs amputated, having been frozen by the recent cold spell.

Three Chinamen quarreled on Sunday in No. 17 Forsythe street, New York, while distributing the earnings from a sale of cigars, and one of them, Ah Fong, was fatally struck with a hatchet.

By the capsizing of a skiff at Louisville, yesterday, four young men were washed over the falls, two loosing their lives, the others being rescued. The lost ones were Thomas Peterson and Patrick Brophy.

John C. Jones was ejected from a saloon in Memphis, yesterday morning, and Pat. Connell remarked that it "served him right;" whereupon Jones stabbed Connell in the throat, inflicting a probably fatal wound.

John Kain, aged six, son of wealthy parents, was yesterday abducted at recess from the school connected with the Church of the Transfiguration in New York city, by an unknown man, who gave him money and sweetmeats.

William Wirner, the watchman and "bouncer" at the Theater Comique, St. Louis, shot and killed Lawrence Mock, a barkeeper in the same establishment, yesterday morning. The murder was brutal and unprovoked.

Nothing definite has been heard of Robert Drury, who murdered his uncle, Albert Gibson, last Friday night, in Memphis. He is twenty-four years of age, five feet eight inches in height, weighs about 145 pounds, has brown hair and light brown mustache; his face is oval and presents a dissipated appearance.

Dave Raggio, a notorious burglar and criminal, who has just served out a term in the Wisconsin State Prison for burglary in Milwaukee, was shot on Saturday night in Chicago, and died yesterday from the effects of his wound. The police have kept the matter quiet, hoping to secure the women who he stated had shot him.

A Cheyenne dispatch says: At Galloway's ranche, twenty-five miles south of here, on Saturday, a difficulty between two horse herders, George V. Via and Granville Peaks, culminated in both drawing revolvers and the exchange of eleven shots, of which Peaks received one in the neck, one in the face and one in the stomach, and will probably die. Via was seriously wounded in the hip and arm. He was brought here yesterday, and will likely recover.

At two A. M. on the 27th, at Timmonsville, South Carolina, B. O. Holloway, the Chamberlain Trial Justice, was shot by unknown parties, near his door. This assassination fired the blacks, who immediately armed, and the whites organized a strong police force. The two parties came in contact on the outskirts of the town, early on Saturday morning, and the result was that two special policemen were wounded, when the whole force returned to town.

Rumors of extensive swindles upon the United States Treasury were rife in Washington on Sunday, but Treasurer Wyman says there is nothing in them, and explains that two million or three million dollars of unclaimed interest on the bonds resting in the Treasury suggests extraordinary inducements to claim agents, constantly on the look out for owners of the bonds. A claim agent sometimes gets hold of the wrong party of the same name, from whom he agent procures a power of attorney to collect the interest. In this way moneys have been erroneously paid out, but such moneys invariably been refunded after the detection of the mistake and the Treasurer has not lost a dollar.

A murder was committed sometime during Sunday night, about seven miles from St. Louis. An old man named John Bishop, seventy-five years old, well known in that section, had been at the Seven-mile House with some friends during the evening, and at nine o'clock left for his home, a half away. Yesterday morning his dead body was found by the roadside a short distance from the tavern, his head being partly submerged in a little marsh, his pockets turned inside out, and his boots gone. It is supposed that some of a gang of foot pads who have infested that part of the country during the winter suffocated the old man in the marsh, then rifled his pockets and stole his boots.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The Eastern Question.

TURCO-SERVIAN NEGOTIATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED AT VIENNA.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 29.—The Servian Government requests that the Ottoman Ambassador at Vienna will enter into negotiations with the Servian diplomatic agent there, having no representative at Constantinople. The Prince of Montenegro has not yet replied to the invitation to treat for peace directly with the Porte.

AN ENTIRELY NEW PHASE OF THE QUESTION.

VIENNA, January 29.—*Montags Revue* (semi-official) says it has reason to believe that the expected Russian circular will open an entirely new phase of the Eastern question. The note will reduce the present situation to one of the following alternatives: Will the Powers attribute a mere platonic character to the views they expressed at the conference, or will they bring a more rigorous pressure upon the Porte? The former would probably result in procrastination, the latter in further independent action by Russia. In any case the Porte must hasten its movements if it intends, by carrying out its Constitution and by the conclusion of peace with Servia and Montenegro, to deprive Russia of all grounds for intervention. The *Montags Revue* concludes its article as follows: "Although the danger of war is not immediately threatening, it can only be banished from the political horizon by great exertions."

CHRISTIANS TO BE APPOINTED GOVERNORS.

LONDON, January 19.—A telegram from Constantinople pronounces unfounded the report that Midhat Pasha had issued an edict for the disarmament of the population. The same dispatch says it is stated that the Porte intends to appoint five Christians to be Governors of provinces.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BEGUN.

LONDON, January 29.—The *Standard's* dispatch from Vienna says the negotiations between the Ottoman Ambassador and the Servian diplomatic agent there have already commenced.

General Ignatieff has arrived at Athens.

THE SITUATION MUCH COMPLICATED.

LONDON, January 30.—The *Times'* correspondent at Berlin telegraphs that the situation is so complicated that it is impossible to form any opinion as to the probable result of the crisis in Servia. A Turkish envoy will shortly arrive in Belgrade to open peace negotiations there, The Cabinet is in session daily under the presidency of Prince Milan. A committee of seventeen members of the last Skuptschina demand the immediate convocation of the chamber to decide finally for peace or war. The Prince favors a meeting of the chamber, but is understood to be opposed to making a separate treaty with the Porte, either on account of the secret engagements from fear that Montenegro will refuse the proposals of Turkey, and thus become the future leader of the Slavs. The ministry oppose the convocation of the Skuptschina because they fear they will be called to a strict account for their administration. It is reported that a special envoy will be immediately despatched to Petersburg to obtain a definite statement of Russia's desires and to ascertain positively what support, if any, can be relied on if the Turkish proposals are finally rejected. The peace party are now very apprehensive that foreign influence will prevent the conclusion of peace. It is impossible that Servia will take any decisive course until replies are received from St. Petersburg. Servia is also bound by treaty to consult Montenegro before taking peace negotiations, but it is not certain that she will observe this agreement, as considerable jealousy exists between the two principalities.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* states that the terms of the Russian memorandum to the Powers were settled shortly before the conclusion of the Czar's visit to Vienna. It is understood that Gortschakoff has received to retire, and his resignation is merely a question of a few days. Count Valoulieff, formerly Minister of Finance, a progressive Liberal, is his probable successor.

The *Telegraph's* correspondent at Paris declares that the Russian army of the South is about to be withdrawn. Only 80,000 men will remain as a corps of observation.

FOREIGN NOTES.

The steamer Switzerland, from New York, arrived at Antwerp, yesterday.

The steamships Lessing, Britannic and Italy, from New York, have arrived out.

The steamships Olympia and Denmark, from New York, and Polynesian, from Portland, have arrived out.

A royal decree has been issued prohibiting the importation into Belgium of horned cattle and sheep from Germany, England, Russia, Austria and Turkey.

The American spiritualist, Slade, sentenced to three months' confinement at hard labor in England, had his sentence quashed, on an appeal, on a legal technicality.

The British council has issued further stringent orders against the importation into Great Britain from Germany and Belgium of cattle, hay, hides, horns, fat, hoofs and fresh meat.

The French Government has dismissed several Mayors for attending masses in memory of Napoleon III. and has decided to treat severely all officials participating in Bonapartist demonstrations.

The *Standard's* Berlin correspondent says it is reported in semi-official quarters that the Powers have recently exchanged communications respecting the eventuality of a vacancy on the throne of St. Peter. It is said the Catholic Powers have engaged to make the strictest use of their ancient prerogative to insure regularity in the election of a successor to Pius IX.

A special to the Liverpool *Post* from London says Colonel Gordon, the explorer, who has returned from his expedition into the interior of Africa under the auspices of the Khedive, and who arrived in England a few days ago, has already received an urgent summons from the Khedive to return to Egypt. He has presented the Royal Geographical Society with valuable original maps which he brought back from Equatorial Africa, and has promised to contribute a paper of great interest.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Indications for To-Day.—In the Western Gulf States, Tennessee and the Ohio Valley, falling barometer, easterly and southerly winds, rising temperature, partly cloudy or cloudy weather, and rain areas, succeeded in the first section by rising barometer.

The first annual meeting of the Sunday School Congress of the United States began its session in Chicago yesterday. There was a large attendance, including presiding elders, pastors, Sunday school teachers and pastors from various parts of the country. Rev. Dr. Vincent, of New York, presided.

Captain Gardner, a prominent mining operator of the Deadwood section, left for the East to-day with samples of ore from thirty different mines, twenty of which are from the silver districts on Bear Butte. The object is simply to display them as an incentive to the direction of capital thither with smelting works.

In the matter of the distribution of the balance of funds in the hands of the Centennial Board of Finance, which was on the 19th inst. decided in favor of the stockholders, District Attorney Valentine, of Philadelphia, acting for the United States Government, yesterday took an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Arkansas State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry, which adjourned on Saturday, adopted a series of resolutions recommending the establishment of local, State, Interstate and international co-operative wholesale and retail stores. All subscriptions are to be made with the understanding that the district stores in each State take out of the amount subscribed one share of stock in the Co-operative Association of the Mississippi Valley as a constituent of the Anglo-American Company for every five members at the time of subscription.

Can She Bake?

Who can make good Bread with poor Flour? Try White River. It never fails.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Another Reduction in Revenue Force.

Pennsylvania to Lose Two Collectors.

The Rival Factions in Louisiana.

Attempts to Secure Presidential Recognition.

Affairs to Remain as They Are Until the National Question is Settled.

A Similar Course to be Pursued as to South Carolina.

Experimental Tests of Iron and Steel

The President Urges an Appropriation for the Purpose.

Composition of the Electoral Tribunal.

Members Selected by the Senate and House.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29, 1877.

Reduction in Number of Collection Districts.

The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill, it has already been stated in these dispatches, provides for a further reduction of twenty in the number of collectors of internal revenue, making one hundred and twenty. It is not improbable that this will be passed, in which case Pennsylvania will lose two of her present number, one in the eastern and the other in the western portion of the State. That in the east will be by the distribution of one of the Philadelphia districts among two adjacent, but which one cannot yet be stated. In the west, however, it will be the consolidation of the Erie and Mercer districts, putting parts on adjacent districts.

The President on Louisiana Affairs.

The President said to-day that he is still being much pressed by the friends of the rival political parties in Louisiana to act in their interests, the Republicans claiming recognition on the ground of election by the formal declaration of the Returning Board, and the Democrats claiming to represent the government elected by the people, and by inference asserting that theirs should be recognized as the legal State government. The President said that he has uniformly declined to recognize either, and that he has no intention of doing so under any circumstances whatever short of a formal showing of the result of the election after a thorough investigation and report by the Congressional committees which investigated the affairs of that State. He said that at this juncture and in view of surrounding circumstances, it would be extremely bad taste to do so. He said that under the decision of Chief Justice Taney and in the case of Rhode Island, it would be fully in his power to seat a Governor without the participation of Congress, but that under the peculiar situation of political affairs in a national point of view, he would not feel justified in exercising that authority, for the result of the election in Louisiana depends largely upon the committee; that upon their report would perhaps depend the count of the vote of that State, and he did not wish by any act on his part to prejudge the case. He explained at some length the complicated questions growing out of the conflict for electors in certain districts of the State. He said that in those districts if the entire five electors were elected, then Packard might be declared the legal Governor; if not, then Nicholls might be so recognized. If, therefore, he were to exercise his own judgment and recognize either, it might be considered equivalent to the Executive of the National Government settling the question of the count; therefore he stated most positively that until the Presidential controversy is settled, he will leave that important question unincumbered, otherwise he might be justly censured. He said it was his intention to maintain the same condition of affairs with regard to the contesting parties, and the military commander had been fully instructed to this effect, but in case of an aggressive movement on the part of either of the rival factions designing to disturb the *statu quo*, or in any manner to take advantage of the other, he would promptly direct General Augur to assume charge of the affairs of the State and establish a military government, to continue until the civil question was decided. He said that both Packard and Nicholls were behaving extremely well, and that their respective followers were exhibiting extraordinary forbearance toward each other. He thought that Nicholls, under the circumstances, with so many hot-headed and impetuous young men among his adherents, was very much to be commended. He said he did not know what his motives were, but he simply judged him by his acts. Those views of the President of his policy, pending the settlement of the Presidential controversy, have been communicated in detail to Messrs. Packard and Nicholls, and to General Augur.

In reference to the condition of affairs in South Carolina, he thought they would continue until the Presidential obstruction was settled, that the situation in that State was different from that in Louisiana; that here the Hayes electors had a majority of all the votes; that in regard to Mr. Ownership Chamberlain had fallen considerably behind, but with the illegal votes cast in Edgefield and Laurens counties thrown out, he thought that Chamberlain also had a majority; but, as heretofore stated in these dispatches, matters would be permitted to remain as they are until the national issue is adjusted. He said that the disposition of the latter question would lead to the speedy determination of the former. In speaking of Governor Chamberlain, he paid a high tribute to that gentleman, saying that he considered him a man of superior education, ability and purity of character.

Experimental Tests of Iron and Steel.

Colonel Laidley, of the Ordnance Department, General Gilmore, of the Engineers; Chief Engineer Smith and Commander Beardsley, of the Navy; General W. S. Smith, Mr. A. L. Holly and Professor Charles Burton, the commission appointed by the President under an act of Congress to conduct experimental tests of iron and steel, was by the last Sundry Civil bill discontinued at the end of the present fiscal year. The commission had just gotten ready for operations at Watervliet arsenal, one of the most complete testing machines in existence. The commission are anxious to carry out the propositions of the act under which they were appointed, as it would be impossible for any private enterprise to carry out this work, and have asked Congress for an appropriation of thirty thousand dollars to carry on experiments through the next fiscal year. The President will, to-morrow or next day, send a special message to Congress embodying the views of the commission on this subject, and urging that the appropriation asked for may be granted. The experiments are of great importance to the iron and steel trade. They not only propose to determine the amount of strain which iron and steel will bear, but make a thorough test of the theory of crystalization in iron as set forth in the opinion of the engineers who investigated the breaking of the Ashtabula bridge. The large number of iron bridges now used on railways and the thousands of human beings whose lives are hourly risked upon them, render these experiments of vital importance to the security of life on railways.

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The Senate Members of the Tribunal.

The approval of the electoral bill and the wise and patriotic accompanying message of the President has tended much to allay the feeling of the friends and opponents of the measure. It has been accepted as an accomplished result, and both parties today were busily engaged in making their arrangements. The Republicans of the Senate held a caucus this morning to determine upon their representatives on the tribunal. A lively contest sprung up between the friends of Morton and Conkling as to which of these gentlemen should be chosen for the important duty. It was early evident that Conkling could not command the united support of the Republicans who voted for the bill. The hour of meeting of the Senate arrived, when the caucus adjourned to reassemble at three P. M. Pending this time there was some lively canvassing among the Republicans. Secretary Chandler was on the ground, urging his best endeavors in the interest of Morton. A private conference was held in the Vice President's room between Chandler, Howe and Sherman and others, which was participated in by Garfield, of the House. When the caucus met later there was some random discussion, which resulted in the naming of Edmunds, McMillan and Morton. Mr. Edmunds thought that some one connected with the committee which framed the measure should be selected, and gave it to be positively understood that he would not serve unless his wish was accepted. McMillan, seeing the embarrassment of the Senators, promptly withdrew his name, whereupon Frelinghuysen was chosen in his place. It was evident in the debate that the Republicans, though possessing admiration for his ability, were not willing to run any risk on Conkling. Morton was therefore selected by a decided vote, and Republicans reassured. The Democrats have determined on Thurman and Bayard.

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In the House caucus to-night, the Democrats selected their men on the third ballot—Payne, Abbott and Hunton. The other candidates were Wood, of New York, and Cox. The Republicans on Saturday selected Garfield and Hoar, the former, who opposed the bill, having been elected unanimously. Both parties have selected their counsel to set before the tribunal—the Republicans William M. Evarts, Stanley Matthews and Robert Ingersoll, the Democratic J. S. Black, Matt. Carpenter and Lyman Trumbull. The Democrats are disposed to make opposition to Garfield on the ground that he prejudged the case, especially in the Louisiana report. The Republicans say that they will not suffer the objection from the Democrats—that Garfield will be sustained. The Supreme Court has adjourned to enable the judges named for the commission to perform the new duties devolved upon them.

MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 29, 1877.

EXAMINATION OF RETURNER KENNER.

The Committee on the Powers, Privileges and Duties of the House in counting the electoral vote, recalled Louis M. Kenner, of the Louisiana Returning Board, when Mr. Lawrence objected to his further examination on the ground that the committee had no right to produce a witness in the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms for contempt without the consent of the House, but the objection was overruled by a vote of four to three. As to the return from Vernon parish, witness had no doubt of the originality of the paper presented on which he had written the word "compile;" had not thought why one hundred and seventy-five votes had been transferred from Tilden to Hayes' side; knew of nothing done to those returns in the board in Louisiana. The committee sent for the papers upon which Kenner's examination was based, in order to examine the witness who brought them from New Orleans, and the committee adjourned for a short time.

Mr. Littlefield, one of the clerks of the Louisiana Returning Board, was examined to-day by Morrison's committee, and was asked the following questions: Did the board, or any member thereof, give directions to the clerks other than by written memoranda concerning returns? Did any member of the board ask you to perform any duty in relation to returns from any parish? Do you know of your own knowledge or information of any instruction from a member or members of the Returning Board concerning alteration of the records as they originally came to the Returning Board? Did you tabulate or perform any duty in connection with the returns from Vernon parish? Did not somebody direct you to change the vote of Vernon parish? The witness refused to answer all the above questions, and he also refused to answer the question whether the paper shown him was the original of the returns from Vernon parish. Q.—Did you not abstract this paper from the office of the Returning Board at New Orleans? A.—I did not. Q.—Do you know how this paper came here? A.—I do not. The witness refused to answer the question whether a change was directed by any member of the Returning Board transferring Democratic votes to the Republican side, and whether the change was not made before the paper passed out of the hands of the Returning Board.

York A. Woodward, one of the clerks of the Returning Board, testified that he did not know of any instructions to the clerks in relation to addition, tabulation and compilation other than the instructions written on the returns themselves, although suggestions might have been made by members of the board. He did not know by conversation or otherwise of a purpose on the part of any members of the board or any other leading officials connected with the vote of having it come out in a particular way. He could give no explanation as to the change in the record of the votes in Vernon parish.

J. H. Murphy, of Davenport, Iowa, testified that having received a telegram in his capacity as notary public, he went on request contained therein to St. Louis, and there met Mr. Stearing and Mr. Littlefield. Littlefield showed to him a return from Vernon parish for Investigo, whom witness handed it back. Subsequently Stearing handed the same paper to witness. No money considerations were paid by the latter for the paper. Littlefield made a statement to witness about this return, and witness repaired to Springfield to consult with Governor Palmer on the subject. Littlefield's statement was that while the Returning Board was in secret session, Governor Wells came into the clerks' room, Littlefield being at his own desk, with the returns from Vernon parish before him. Governor Wells requested Littlefield to transpose the vote of the Second and Ninth precincts to the other side, and the reason assigned by him was that such transposition would elect the Republican candidates for District Judge and District Attorney of that district. Littlefield told the governor that such transposition was accordingly made by him. After Morrison's committee had called Governor Wells to testify, Wells called to Littlefield that there being some annoyance about the parish of Vernon, there would have to be some change, and asked Littlefield whether he could not figure up and see whether he could not make 178 votes for those candidates. Littlefield said he could do it by altering three other precincts, One, Seven and Ten. "Very well," said Governor Wells, "make up the record, and we will have the affidavits prepared." Wells told him to make a copy, and certain tally sheets were then destroyed by Governor Wells. The witness went to New Orleans to verify the statement, which was repeated by the witness, to Governor Palmer. Witness said he was present in the committee room during the time that Littlefield was there. Littlefield testified that he never received any instructions from Governor Wells, but he informed witness to the contrary, saying that Wells did so instruct him.

The Committee on the Powers, Privileges and Duties of the House, in counting the electoral vote were present during the examination and when they returned to their room they called Littlefield before them. The latter asked him questions concerning the precincts in question, but he declined to answer. He also declined to answer as to whether he had any conference with any Democrats concerning the papers containing returns. He stated in reply to a question that he went to New Orleans eight years ago, and latterly held a position under the Kellogg government. The committee agreed that Littlefield should be reported to the House for not answering various questions propounded to him. Mr. Lawrence moved that the telegraph operators, DeBerry and Brush, be also reported for similar reasons, but this motion was postponed until the next meeting of the committee.

CAUCUSING.

The Republican Senators were in caucus to-day nearly two hours, and without coming to any conclusion adjourned till three o'clock. The whole time was consumed in general discussion, first, whether the passage of the Electoral bill was a Republican surrender, and second, whether the Republican members of the commission should consist of advocates of the so called surrender, or opponents of the bill.

The Democratic Senators may not have a caucus, as it seems understood that Thurman and Bayard will be selected to represent them on the commission.

At an adjourned meeting of the Senate Republican caucus this afternoon, Messrs. Edmunds, Morton and Frelinghuysen were unanimously chosen to be members of the Senate branch of the Tripartite Electoral Commission, and they will be formally elected by the Senate to-morrow, together with Messrs. Thurman and Bayard. The proceedings of the caucus this afternoon were entirely harmonious.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED.

The Senate, in executive session, confirmed the following nominations: Ellis Speer, Commissioner of Patents; John S. Barton, Collector of Customs at Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va.; James Milward, of New York, and United States Consul at Ghent; William T. Hughes, Indian Agent at Grand River Agency, Dakota, Postmasters—John A. Shipman, Springfield, O.; B. Neale, Eaton, O.; J. E. Johnson, Warsaw, Ills.; B. Swasee, Pekin, Ills.; E. A. Willard, Bristol, Penn.

SENATE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE FLORIDA ELECTION.

Senator Sargent to-day submitted to the Senate the report of the special committee of that body appointed to investigate election matters in Florida. After reciting the resolutions under which the committee acted, and setting out the election law of Florida, it proceeds to state and discuss the action of the State Canvassing Board, showing that it made a preliminary canvass of the returns on their face, giving to the Hayes electors forty-five majority. The board then commenced to hear contests, holding its sessions in public. The committee say that the course subsequently pursued by the board in this matter was exactly in accordance with its practice in 1874, when by written advice of the Democratic Attorney General and of Democratic lawyers, it went behind the returns for the benefit of the Democratic party. The result of this canvass was 923 majority for the Hayes electors. The committee argue at length that this count was legal and constitutional, and that the board had a right to seek the true vote behind the returns under the statute which created it. They say: A statute enacted *pro bono publico*, to prevent election frauds, should be beneficially construed. The report then goes on to argue that the finding of the board is conclusive and cannot be revised by a recanvass or reached by a writ of *quo warranto*, because the electors are *functus officio*, or reversed by Congress because the Constitution lodges the whole power in the State. A great many authorities are cited to sustain these positions. A distinction is drawn, however, in the case of the ministerial certificate of a Governor who is not a member of the board, and has no power to change anything. It is argued that Congress may look behind his certificate to ascertain the facts, as a court may go behind the ministerial certificate of a clerk purporting to verify the judgment to see what the judgment really is, but if Congress can revise the action of the board it must go to the bottom of the poll and ascertain the true vote in all the contested counties. It would have to go as far as a court in *quo warranto* proceedings. Such an attempt would not be made, for there is not time, and anything less would be unjust; for going to the bottom of the poll, the committee say, would show, according to evidence taken by them, that the Hayes electors had more than 200 majority. The report then proceeds to discuss the testimony in detail. In Alachua county the committee examined individual voters at both the Archer No. 1 and No. 2 precincts, and the report asserts that instead of Republican fraud there was a Democratic fraud of over one hundred votes in those precincts. The committee quote largely from the testimony, and present a considerable amount of argument in support of this assertion. They also present evidence to show that a railroad train of passengers voted the Tilden ticket in Waldo precinct, although citizens of other States. In regard to Dakota and Duval counties, the committee say it is shown that the State Board decided that the only legal return before them from Baker county was that of the county judge and his associates; that they so decide the first day, and simply adhered to that decision in the recanvass made under order of the Supreme Court. They, however, previous to that order, went to the precinct returns for the true vote, but when the court made its order they recurred to the return which they had first adjudged to be the only legal one. The committee claim to show that the County Clerk's paper was in response to a return, and had not at any time been treated as such, and that it could not be so treated, because the persons necessary to make a legal canvass, the inspectors, were not there in Duval county, which, the Democrats insist, is a parallel case. The committee, however, claim to make it very apparent that there is a vital difference between the two cases, and say if the face of the returns is to rule, it should rule in Baker county, where

The Commercial.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1877.

THE foreign commerce of New York last week was: General merchandise imports, $5,641,131; produce exports, $8,375,186, and specie exports $212,833.

IT is a pity that the New York *Express* should be ignorant of the fact that the electoral commission is not authorized to consider the point raised by the House that Colorado is not a State. It wastes so much fine writing.

THE mass of telegraphic dispatches delivered up by the telegraph companies to the investigating committees at Washington, has revealed one from PELTON, the nephew of TILDEN, to a leading Democrat in Oregon, which declares "We must have Oregon at any price!" The price paid, as so far revealed, was $15,200; and they have not got Oregon yet.

THE Presidential commission may not be able, if Judges CLIFFORD and FIELD hold out against the selection of a fifth man who will be acceptable to Judges MILLER and STRONG, to come to any conclusion upon the Presidency; and in that case the country will have to fall back upon Dr. MARY WALKER and do without a President altogether.

OF THE making of new words there is no end. oA car which leaves the railroad track and prefers to bump it over the ties or take its place in the ditch, is now said to be derailed; a train which plunges into an abyss from a high bridge may likewise be said to be debridged, and a conductor left behind by his train, as conductors are sometimes left, is detrained.

IT IS said that Speaker KERR, denouncing, last winter, the suggestion of making Judge DAVIS the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, said: "He would smash the Democratic party to pieces so soon and so sure as he got into the White House." He can now try his 'prentice hand on smashing in the Senate; and if he can smash the Democratic party to pieces he will richly deserve the Presidency.

THE fate of the SPRAGUES, who tried to avoid bankruptcy by a composition with their creditors, is thus told by the Newport (R. I.) *News:*

It seems to be conceded that the firm of A. & W. Sprague are unable to retrieve their fallen fortunes. It will be remembered that they gave sixteen thousand notes on which they were to pay interest. The business depression is such that they cannot meet this interest as it comes due, and there is now little hope that the great house will recover from its embarrassments.

ONE of Boston's most solid merchants writes to the *Commercial Bulletin* that at a recent fashionable party he saw five different business men who had been though bankruptcy within the past fourteen months, and settled with their creditors at from fifteen to thirty cents on the dollar. The wives of all these men were dressed in the extreme height of fashion, glittering with jewelry and diamonds. This would seem to indicate that the machinery of going through bankruptcy has become, at least in that particular quarter, pretty thoroughly lubricated.

REPRESENTATIVE HUBN's speech in the House on Thursday, on the bill to submit to the voters of Pennsylvania the question of the removal of the capital to Philadelphia, was certainly one of the most effective of the many excellent speeches delivered by that gentleman during the time that he has represented the people of Philadelphia at Harrisburg.—*Philadelphia Sunday Republic.*

It this the same HUBN who, when the nomination for Speaker was pending, published a card in the Harrisburg papers *denying* that he was in favor of removing the capital, and citing his action, as a member from Schuylkill, in 1861, as evidence that he was opposed to it?

IN the absence of European war rumors the Chicago market begins to feel the pressure of supplies of pork, lard, wheat and corn, to say nothing of other grains and meats. There is a volume represented by a month's visible supply of these articles together the largest load in value Chicago has ever had. Western men are very largely the owners of the property, which they are carrying by heavy purchases of future options. This state of affairs can last only for a time, and unless the Eastern and European markets evince more disposition to come for it there must soon be a serious decline, certainly in wheat.

PROFESSOR SEELYE is enraptured with the electoral bill. He thinks there never was anything like it before.—*Boston Journal.*

And we hope there never will be any thing like it again. The best thing that can be said for it is that it is a temporary and extraordinary expedient to get Congress and the country out of a tight and possibly a dangerous place, rendered necessary not by any essential difficulty in the problem to be solved, but by the conflict of opinion between the two Houses of Congress as to the result of the last Presidential election. This is the whole and only argument for the measure.

THE future prospects of our cotton manufacturers are brighter than they ever were before. The Boston *Advertiser* states that there are thousands of bales on order books that have not yet been started at the mills. About a year ago Mr. EDWARD ATKINSON, of that city, in an able paper on the subject, calculated that the export of cotton goods would reach fifteen millions and there stop, as this represented the annual surplus of our manufacturers. The annual export has now reached that figure. The annual export before the war did not exceed eleven millions, and was confined then to standard drills and sheetings; now it includes all the best styles of our manufactures. The inability now to fill orders for the foreign market arises from the low stage of water in the streams.

A NEW illustration of the political prescience of the late Secretary SEWARD is furnished in the Memoirs of his Life by his son FREDERICK, now in course of publication. He closed a speech in Syracuse, in 1844, with a prediction then considered even by many Whigs to be monstrously extravagant. Time, however, has verified it:

> Democrats, Liberty Men and Whigs, by whatever name you prefer to be called, the issue presents itself alike to all. Texas and slavery are at war with the interests, the principles, the sympathies of all. The integrity of the Union depends on the result. To increase the slaveholding power is to subvert the Constitution, to give a fearful preponderance which may, and probably will, be speedily followed by demands to which the Democratic free labor States cannot yield, and the denial of which will be made the ground of secession, nullification and disunion.

THE maiden speech in the House of TILDEN's paid Congressman, DAVID DUDLEY FIELD, was notable only for its egregious blunders. Among many other false and absurd things he said, speaking of the electoral bill:

> When on Wednesday night the Senate sat to decide this question, I watched with an anxiety which I cannot express the flag that floated over its chamber to see if it was still flying. There it floated all through the night. Watching until daylight came, as the sun rose over the snow, lighting up this capitol from basement to dome, the flag was furled, and I knew that the day was won.

In a daylight description this flag business might have done moderately well. Night sessions, however, are indicated by a light in the dome, and not by a flag at all. Moreover, the darkness was so intense that he could not have seen the flag at the length of his arm had it been there. Gone to meet Sergeant BATES.

THE election of BEN. HILL to the Senate from Georgia, in place of NORWOOD, is a crowning evidence of the general unwillingness of the great public to stand by our public men by continuing them in office. BOUTWELL is displaced by HOAR in Massachusetts, DAVIS ousts LOGAN, BEN. HILL leads NORWOOD out by the ear, MCPHERSON succeeds FRELINGHUYSEN, GARLAND takes the place of CLAYTON, LAMAR slips into ALCORN's place, SAUNDERS is preferred to HITCHCOCK in Nebraska, GOVERNOR CORE, of Texas, steps into some other Senator's place, and the only instances of re-election, so far, are FERRY, in Michigan, and SAULSBURY in Delaware. Such a wholesale slaughter of incumbents has never taken place before; and we are left to infer that the pressure to get into office, from those who are out, is altogether too great to be overcome by any existing inclination to retain those now in. Every State is full of statesmen, from the callow brood up to the full-fleged bird; and every one of them, both in their own estimation and that of their confiding friends, is better qualified for Senator than the man who may happen to be in, no matter who he is. Against this horde of aspirants, no Senator can successfully plead his services or his talents. He occupies a place which some one else has marked for his own; and the time is fast coming when it will be impossible for any one to earn a re-election, either by his abilities, his fidelity or his attention to the duties of his office. The only consolation to be derived from this state of things is that the fellows who are going in, now, will be turned out when their first term expires.

THE act of a few men in New York, in holding a public meeting in that city to encourage the Southern States in their plans of repudiation, was not very successful in point of numbers and was an entire failure, so far as the character of those attending it was concerned. A meeting to encourage burglary, or larceny, or highway robbery, would hardly command much force; and why should a different result attend a meeting to help repudiation along? Repudiation is as much a crime as burglary or arson; and as it is one of those offenses which can be carried only by the high hand, it does not need any particular encouragement. The capitalists of New York may have to submit to either a general or partial repudiation of the debts of the Southern States; but they do not need to go half way to meet the repudiators. It will be bad enough, when it comes, and hard enough to submit to, without being sought after and encouraged.

Concerning the actual facts in this dirty business the Philadelphia *Bulletin* says:

> The amount of the bonds already defaulted by the States in whose behalf this suggestion is made, is alleged to be nearly $200,000,000, and they are the issue, not of states which have been the prey of the carpet-bagger and the ignorant negro, but chiefly of North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia—States which have been, and are now, controlled by the Democratic party. Concerning the repudiated indebtedness of the two first named States we have some accurate information. North Carolina owes $88,000,000. Of this she has already, without waiting for the comfortable counsel of her Northern friends, refused outright to pay $16,500,000. The remainder, amounting in exact figures to $22,409,383, it is now proposed to scale in such a way that of his recognized debt the State will have to pay only about fifteen cents on the dollar. This is a State in which the assessed value of taxable property is $200,000,000, and upon which nature has lavished all the conditions of wealth in a rich soil, abundant forests, splendid water power and mountains and valleys abounding in iron, coal, copper, lead, zinc, mica, silver and gold. In Tennessee the proposition made in the Legislature is to repudiate forty per cent. of the obligations of the State, reducing the recognized debt to $13,000,000. The present State tax is only four mills, so that a farmer, owning a property worth $2,000, is asked to pay to the State but eight dollars a year in taxes. This excise is believed to be entirely sufficient to pay interest on the whole of the debt and to run the government besides. But the people are clamoring for a reduction of taxation, and the Legislature is proposing to relieve its constituents by gouging the creditors of the State. There are not many States in the Union which impose so light a tax as this, and there are none in the North. We are very sure, which would ever consent to repudiation of sacred obligations for the purpose of making taxes lighter. There is the more infamy in the Tennessee scheme, because the borrowed money was expended upon a handsome capitol, and upon other public buildings and improvements, all of which the State intends to hold on to and to enjoy, instead of surrendering them to its creditors as a bankrupt individual would be compelled to do.

The only effect of a mutual arrangement between the bondholders and these defaulting States would be to encourage a disregard of binding obligations. There is no reason for believing that either of these States would pay the scaled debt or the interest upon it. The result would be something like that in the case of the New York publishers who were bankrupted by their connection with BECHER. They scaled their debts by giving new obligations, at fifty cents on the dollar, payable a year or two from date; and now they propose to scale the scaled debt by giving new obligations at thirty cents on the dollar. The sacredness of obligations, when once tampered with, cannot be regained. The average Southerner regards *any* debt as a burden too heavy to be borne; and the debt that is compromised now at forty cents on the dollar, will be repudiated hereafter with the same ease and facility as now attends the repudiation of the original debt.

THE proposition of the business men of this community to pay the leader of the great social reform movement now in progress here a specific yearly salary for his services, and to place at his discretionary disposal a certain fund for distribution among poor and needy families, is a business-like way of solving a somewhat important question. It is to be hoped that the meeting of this class of citizens, to be held this morning at the Fifth Avenue church, may result in the practical accomplishment of both of these objects. Side by side stand the altars of Christianity and of home. After all the fine things that are said about republican institutions, the final test of every people's character is to be found in the character of their domestic firesides. Whatever tends to better the home circle, betters the community, the State, the nation, for all men interlace, not merely by compulsion, but by natural necessities and affiliations. There is no dispute as to the real and solid good which, in an infinite variety of ways, has already accrued from the movement, since its inception some ten or twelve weeks ago. How to permanently crystallize and utilize these beneficial results, is now the question. The fertilizing inundation is at its height; much now depends on what use is to be made of the alluvial deposit. Meanwhile the aggressive element of the movement, great and growing as this is, is seriously cramped by inadequate funds and lack of thorough systematism. Liberal monetary contributions are, we learn from Chancellor Woods, needed immediately. They should be sent to Mr. J. B. JONES, 64 Fourth avenue.

THE aversion of the lordly tramp to any form of manual labor receives fresh proof almost daily. Any ordinary able-bodied tramp will work harder, suffer greater privations and expend more brain force, in an effort to beat somebody out of a nickel, than would be required of him to earn an honest living for a week. At Logan, Ohio, a few days since, a number of tramps were arrested and placed in the lock-up preparatory to being put to work on the roads, according to a pleasant custom in vogue among the miners. The haughty instincts of the tramps rebelled at the prospect of shoveling. It was for them a moment of awful trial, but ingenuity, born of desperation, triumphed. In their lonely prison cells the tramps carefully removed what clothing they had, and stuffed it in the roaring stove, and when the exact task-masters came to marshal them forth with pick and shovel, it needed no arguments to convince them that the prisoners were in no fit condition to face the winds of winter. Our correspondent does not relate whether these waggish vagrants are to be supplied with clothing at the expense of the citizens, or kept on indefinitely in their present state around the warm stove in the lock-up. It will occur at once, though, to all intelligent persons, that they have, by this happy discovery, virtually abolished involuntary servitude in cold climates, and for this they will no doubt receive the honest gratitude of their kind.—*Cincinnati Gazette.*

Swinging forward. Italy has declared its seventeen universities open to women. The like action has been taken by Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. A ministerial order has been issued in Holland opening every university and gymnasium to women. France has opened the Sorbonne to women, and Russia its highest schools of medicine and surgery.

Rhode Island thinks of abolishing second trials by jury.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

New York's mail matter last week weighed 203 tons.

Nemesis. The rich thieves of the past are fast becoming the poor outcasts of the present.

Corea has a great famine. The East would seem to be getting slack in the way of production.

Heredity. Statistics show that the children of every class of murderers are almost invariably criminals.

Consolidated Virginia has ceased to pay dividends from the golden streets of that subterranean New Jerusalem.

Just now there is much said in favor of reducing rents, but most men find it more difficult to raise rents than to reduce them.

Slaughter of the innocents. In Chicago nearly 8,000 children have been carried away by scarlet fever and diphtheria within three months.

New Hampshire's election will take place on the 13th of March, six weeks from to-day. The campaign bids fair to be as severe as the season.

Maine pays $5 as bounty for every bear killed within its limits. Last year was a good, or rather a bad, year for bears, five hundred and forty-nine being killed, costing the State $2,745.

New York is the champion fire State. Last year she lost by fire more property than all three of the States that rank next to her in wealth and population.

Contraband curs. An extensive traffic is carried on in New York city in dogs of "fancy" foreign breeds which are smuggled into port without paying duty.

Sulpho-carbolate of soda is the new remedy for scarlet fever and diphtheria. It is said to be especially valuable in all cases of blood poisoning. It is also used prophylactically with great success.

Railroad mortality was high, last year, in this country; the accidents were 932 in number, against 1,201 in 1875 and 980 in 1874, the killed 328, against 234 in 1875, and the injured 1,097, about the usual number.

Since railroad building has become famified in California, new towns spring up so rapidly that the maps can scarcely keep pace with them. There is also a marked revival of business and additions of population in the old ones.

A Christian cargo left New Haven for Constantinople, last Saturday. It consisted of rifles, bayonets and scabbards, guns, cartridges and shells, balls, wads and pistols, and so forth. Its mission is to help the Turks, and its value is $1,769,100.

Professor Swing commends Essipoff's playing because "the word piano means soft," and she "knew the name of the piano, and made it speak its foreordained language." That is just half the name of the instrument; the other name is "forte," loud.

The weekly edition of the London *Times* is the result of Mr. Walter's visit to America. The paper contains a careful selection of the news and leaders published during the week, and it is printed in a form that enables the purchaser to bind it conveniently. At the end of the year there will be no better work of reference extant.

An instructive fact is that, of the accidents from broken rails for the past four years, 201 occurred in the first quarter of the year, the winter quarter, and only eighteen in the third quarter. Thus there are eleven times as many broken rails in winter as in summer, showing that the safety of the roadbed is in some way greatly impaired by the winter season.

PERSONAL.

Daniel Heyman's will has been contested in New York, and in the course of the proceedings a quaint letter has been produced, the closing paragraph of which runs thus: "Sister Louise is very Good Sister For Gedding Wife For My Brother, but she never Dry and Get one For me. I think I Deserve A Good Wife with Plenty Stamps, also My Regards." Notable sentiments!

Rush R. Sloan, whose connection with the Cincinnati, Sandusky and Cleveland road, and heavy embezzlements and other crimes, for which he fled to Europe some two years since, will be remembered, is announced will in a short time again assume control of the road. Since his return, and the quashing of the indictments against him, he has been quietly buying up shares in the road, until he and his friends have obtained a controling interest.

The Portland *Oregonian* does not like ladies who are ready to swoon at the sight of a mouse and, desiring to bring the blush of shame to their cheeks, relates the following: "Miss Melissa Wilson, a young lady eighteen years of age, shot and killed a large panther a mile and a quarter from her father's house, which is six miles above Sheridan, on Saturday, December 23. The panther had been killing her father's sheep, and his dogs got after the animal and treed it, and the young lady killed it at the second shot."

In view of the fact that ex-Governor Geary's grave in the Harrisburg Cemetery is unmarked by a headstone, it is proposed that every citizen and member of his command contribute a dollar for this purpose. As there is but one organization of ex-soldiers in existence composed of the men of his command, viz: "The 28th and 147th Regiments P. V. V., and Knapp's Pennsylvania Battery," it is recommended that they, at their next annual meeting, which will be held in Mauch Chunk in the month of October next, appoint a suitable person to take charge of the funds, and have a monument or headstone placed over his grave. Letters may be addressed to J. K. Pryor, Mauch Chunk.

An extraordinary story of wrong done and suffered is related by the New York *Herald*, of Elizabeth Mary Sanxay. At the age of fourteen she married Captain Gordon Keith, her cousin, a captain in the United States Navy. On the death of her husband she remained in Baltimore, under care of her cousin, Archbishop Eggleston, who placed her in supervision of St. Vincent's asylum for orphans, in that city. The institution was formerly in charge of the black-cap sisters, who refused to retire until threatened with legal process. A year later Mrs. Keith and her infant daughter were kidnaped and conducted to Mount Hope lunatic asylum, where the mother was forcibly retained for seven years, being mourned as dead by her relatives. She finally regained her liberty, through the interference of Archbishop Hendricks, and returned to her father in New York city. In search of health she went to Williamsburg, Va., where she was again kidnaped and confined in a lunatic asylum for eighteen years. She was finally liberated by a military commission appointed by General Hancock, by which she was pronounced sane. Even then she was detained on various pretexts for some months, but was finally restored to her brother, R. Selby Sanxay, who had been informed of her existence. The lady who is said to have undergone this terrible experience is now living in New York city.

A Laborer's Luck.

Gold mining in the far West still has its startling romances. All the rich diggings have not yet been found, and there are as big nuggets in the earth as ever yet have been dug out of it. May be, bigger. The miners of Jimtown, near Denver, Col., had for months in going to and from their daily toil followed a certain path on a mountain side. Their heavy tread had worn the shallow scum of earth away to the rock. But the crumbling rock presented no signs that struck the veteran miner's eye as gold-bearing. One early morning a short time ago a laborer swung his sledge upon his shoulders and wended his way up the rocky mountain side alone. He was yoked to the drudgery of toil, and had long since ceased to dream of a gold mine for himself. His claim was a living and a grave in the mountain solitudes when he was ready to occupy the narrow house. He had no ambition left, and no hope lighted his pathway. Reaching a point of rock in the way, he carelessly let his sledge fall upon it and detached several pieces of vein matter. The glittering particles in the detached rock disclosed to his wide eyes one of the richest gold mines in the world. One blow of his sledge had struck fire in his life and made a new man of him. He scarcely remembered his old hopeless self in his golden dream-alone with untold wealth on the mountain side. He told his valuable secret to a friend, and took him in as a partner. They began to sink a shaft and at the depth of nine feet the rock continues to increase in richness, and thin strips of wire gold seem to hold together the fragmentary parts of the vein matter. The newly discovered lode of Jimtown is the richest of the rich section and Virden & Griffin own this treasure vault of the hills. The luck has heightened the fever of prospecting, but the above-named firm have all they want.

BRIDGES AND METAL WORKS.

Why Do They Break?

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

I have in use in my family a wrought iron bedstead, For three years it has been subject to the roughest usage, three of my children romping and dancing upon it; yet, in the night when all was quiet, and the night following the Ashtabula misfortune, one of the end pieces broke asunder, falling to the floor.

This brings to my recollection an occurrence that points to the great uncertainty of the strength of iron and steel in frost. Early one morning, when talking with a blacksmith, I struck the bench iron of a large sized anvil with a two pound hand-hammer, by way of giving emphasis to what I had spoken, and to our astonishment that part of the anvil fell at my feet, showing no possible sign of even the least previous fracture; and this one of Wright's best English made anvils, the same having been subject times out of number to the pounding of two heavy sledge hammers.

Another case: Why do they break? Having used a favorite chipping hammer for two or three years, yet one dinner time, the weather being somewhat frosty, I laid it on the ground while getting my meal (one-half hour). The first stroke after dinner broke the hammer that had served me for years on the general duties of bridge building and heavy marine work.

Mr. Editor, there is no reason to suppose that any prior disarrangement or fracture in the cord, braces, angle pieces or joint bolts existed at the time of the train No. 9 reaching the ill-fated structure. The practical man of metal can count back upon abundant instances of fractures taking place on metalic structures when free of burden or strain, though but a short time before hurdened or strained to its full safe-bearing intended capacity.

I remember, about three years ago, standing upon a locomotive, attending to some work, the boiler being quite empty of water and steam. One of the steel "inside" fire-box plates burst asunder, giving a report like that of an artillery piece. No steam, no water, nothing but the powerful contracting power of the frost. The iron outside shell being felted and bagged, remained warm; the frosted air rushing inside of the fire box and contracting the inside plate, produced the fracture.

I would advise the parties who talk of the ductile properties of braces and trussings accomodating the variation in the contractile influence of cold upon those of various lengths, to make themselves a good leal more practically acquainted with the quality and nature of bridge iron, both cast and wrought. When chilled down to the neighborhood of zero, ductility is nix.

Now, here is a point that offers scope for inquiry. The terminal points of nearly all parts of bridge structures are cast iron—reacherous cast iron—for a more uncertain, untrustworthy material never can be used where exposure to frost and violent concussion are companion influences. You may burden a piece at sixty tons and all go well, and the next strain of twenty tons, with a little thaw or a little added frost or strain, or concussion, will cause a fracture. You will easily see that to count on the tensile strength of this wrought iron used upon a bridge, while you have treason in each last iron "terminal," is a fallacy that should be no longer permitted to go unfought, and an error that, for the credit of the engineering profession, should be immediately corrected.

Now, permit me to tell you something that I have seen in iron bridge building. The cords are formed of bars, say thirty or forty feet long, having a bolt-eye at each end. These bars are united to each other by pins or bolts. It is not unusual to make up the strength of these cords, plates or bars by using them eight or more abreast. At the end of each set of bars the one pin or bolt is made to pass through the eyes of the eight or more bars. Now, a variation of one-sixteenth of an inch in the boring of the eye of any of these bars of thirty or forty feet long will positively release from burden or strain all but the shortest bars. I have seen where this defect has been overcome by springing the longer bars away from the shorter ones, so as to succeed in having the pin or bolt through the eyes of the whole "breast;" then when the bridge was "swinging," some of the bars or ties and braces were made musical as a first violin; others jar like the worn-out latch of a barn door. Do you think that the durability in a severely frosted atmosphere can correct this breach of harmony in strain? Such a supposition as that the parts become elongated by the undue strain, which thereby remedies the evil, is too absurd. Were that the case, the continuous changes that would accompany each considerable change of temperature upon iron and steel bridges formed by combination of long and short braces and trussings would result in unceasing disarrangements of the uniformity of tension. In hot weather the long bars, extending more than 600 feet, would throw the whole burden upon the shortest, which, by the undue strain, would become permanently elongated; then the cold would, on reshortening the long ones, slacken up the elongated short ones; this in turn like long trusses would be subject to the whole burden, and consequently thereby become permanently elongated, and so on in perpetuity, but such is not the case.

Iron bridges have proved good servants to the community. Count the "passages" made over these structure, comparing tons of weight and number of persons, with the casualties, and we can still afford to keep our seats in confidence or at any rate with the right of "falling through," as we should have of being smashed on the streets by the hundreds of thousands of huge, creaking signs and rotten cornicies, on our house fronts. Still I must persist in urging the abolition of *cast iron* in bridge structures.

I would also say it is imperatively necessary that a platform with suitable hand rails should be formed *under* every such structure, so situated that an experienced man could command a fair and efficient inspection of the component parts of the bridge, by which flaws, displacements or breaches of harmony in respect to tension could be detected, wherever presenting themselves. I am somewhat doubtful, however, if such an inspection could have saved the Ashtabula bridge.

Before closing, let me tell you of a few cases of my personal experience of the destructive effect of frost upon iron, cast and wrought. I once saw a bridge "truss bar" (calculated to resist a terrible strain of 318 tons) struck a blow by a blow smith in a twenty-four pound sledge, the bar having laid in the frost two days and two nights. It is true it was broken at the "scarf," that point resting upon the anvil. It is also true that the scarf showed signs of improper welding, for which reason the blow was made, yet the fracture showed that the indication was not on an average one-thirty-second part of an inch deep, the bar being ten inches wide by one and one-fourth inches thick. I also saw a cast iron pan, fifteen feet long, seven feet wide, with a half feet deep, one and one-fourth inches thickness of metal, torn into two halves by extreme cold—no mechanical pressure whatever exerted upon it.

Another instance: I placed into position two heavy castings, say three tons each; they performed their duty satisfactorily for one year, when one of them, on an extremely cold day, flew in two pieces of almost equal weight, and within one week of the first one breaking, the other broke in a similar manner. The two castings were entirely independent of each other, no additional strain being thrown on the one after the first had broken.

On the other hand, I have known a locomotive running a passenger express to crack three arms in each of two of the main driving wheels, the first week after coming "new" out of the shops, and this at midsummer; and this same engine kept her "run" through the whole of the following winter, which was a very cold, an exceedingly severe one, without adding to the number of fractured arms, and for aught I know, the same wheels are on the same engine to this day.

I remember of an establature plate of an ocean side wheel steamship's engine, (the plate weighing twenty-eight tons) after having traversed the toughest and the roughest of seas, thousands of times, one side wheel in the sea and the other out, surging away to the full capacity of 2,000 horse power, without yielding, to break in three pieces, while coming out of a dock where the waters were as peaceful as in our city reservoirs.

I will reiterate my statement that it is by no means necessary that any fracture or displacement had taken place on the broken bridge prior to No. 5 train coming on. I think it reasonable that the blinding snow that was falling caused a dragging as well as a rolling motion of the wheels, and this put a lateral strain upon the bridge, somewhat like the effect of bearing hard on the broom when sweeping a carpet. This dragging gathered the bridge toward the running way of the train; then, when the first engine struck the drifted snow on reaching the abutment after crossing the bridge, the momentum of the other engine and the whole train was severely checked, thrusting or reversing this lateral strain with immense violence; and hence the fracture.

What the Lake Shore Railroad Company have lopped off, and cut down in its several departments, industrial, from time to time, to meet the almost ruin that threatened them by the old management is notorious. That they have deprived their bridge structures of the frequent supervision that the traveling public have a just title to receive benefits from, is by no means unlikely.

It is not a year ago that I counted 230 disarrangements in one and a half miles of track on one of our prominent railroads; and I am sure that when I say that what supervision is made is entrusted to most incompetent persons whose ignorance is manifest, the first minute's conversation a practical man holds with them, I speak truly. Generally "every civil, willing fellow" constitutes their diploma for holding responsible trusts, where a high grade of mechanical and engineering skill would be a desirable possession; but that cannot be until the railroad system goes into the hands of the National Government, when the question will not be so much: Does it pay enough that plunder can be had? as it will be, Is the road safe? Is there anywhere we can spend some more money?

Now, sir, if you wish a fair illustration of the manner of fractures taking place in iron structures, such as bridges, steam boilers, reservoirs, &c., take a piece of linen fabric, take in each hand a corner, pull like everything, pull again, and again and again; by and by the first fibre parts, and in the same instant the whole piece is in two, split from end to end; and thus the end of my epistle.

CHARLES FRANKLIN,
31 Case avenue, Cleveland.

There is talking of eliminating from the alphabet the letter C. Where it has the soft sound *s* is to be used; and where hard, *k* is to be substituted. Kikero, Keramik, Kassandra, Kinkinnati, Kolumbus and Kolorado will be among the changes required in the new order of things. Better letter B.

S. M. Pettengill & Co.,

Advertising Agents,

37 Park Row, New York,

Desire to Call the Attention of Business Men, who wish to reach the Reading Public, to the following

FACTS:

1. They have been in the Advertising business for nearly thirty years, and given it constant attention and study during that time.
2. They have had, and continue to have, cordial business relations with all the newspapers and other periodicals in the United States and Canada.
3. Their record with all these publications is one of fair treatment, honorable dealing and prompt settlements.
4. In consequence of this, they can always have advertisements inserted at the publisher's *lowest rates.*
5. They are so acquainted with the entire press of the country that they can select the *best mediums* for any given purpose.
6. Having done advertising for all kinds of business, and noted the results to their customers, they imagine valuable suggestions as to the *size, style and position* which will make the most effective advertisement for the object to be attained.
7. Having frequent orders for a large number of papers, they can, in most cases, get the work done for *less cost* than the advertiser would have to pay if he sent the order direct.
8. They examine all papers, note all omissions or irregularities, secure the strict fulfillment of every stipulation of the order, and submit full files for the inspection of the advertiser.
9. They give the advertiser the full benefit of the facilities and of their supervision *without charge,* a commissions being paid by the publishers.
10. They submit estimates for any given list of papers, or for properly covering any given district.
11. For a systematic working up of any large enterprise, they assist in the preparation of circulars, pamphlets and general reading matter, in addition to newspaper advertising.

They invite a call from any parties who contemplate advertising in any way or for any amount.

S. M. PETTENGILL & CO.,
37 Park Row, New York.
701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Centennial Grounds, Philadelphia.
10 State Street, Boston.

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,
No. 61 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh.
CHARTERED IN 1862.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.—George A. Berry, President; John Scott, Jas. Park, Jr., Vice Presidents. A. Bradley, J. L. Graham, A. S. Bell, Wm. K. Nimick, John Bilworth, F. Rahm, G. Follansbee, Robert C. Schmertz.
Chas. G. Milnor, Secretary and Treasurer.
SOLICITOR—John H. Bailey.

POLITICAL.

FOR MAYOR,
S. J. WAINWRIGHT,
FIFTEENTH WARD,
Subject to the decision of the City Republican Convention.

FOR MAYOR,
JARED M. BRUSH.
Subject to the decision of the City Republican Convention.

FOR MAYOR,
JOS. A. BUTLER.
Subject to the Republican City Convention.

FOR CITY TREASURER,
R. B. BROWN.
Subject to the decision of the City Republican Convention.

FOR CITY TREASURER,
THOS. S. MITCHELL.
Subject to the decision of the City Republican Convention.

FOR CITY TREASURER,
SAMUEL KILGORE.
Subject to the decision of the City Republican Convention.

FOR CITY TREASURER,
J. F. DENNISTON,
TWENTIETH WARD, PITTSBURGH.
Subject to the decision of the Republican Primary Election.

FOR CITY CONTROLLER,
R. M. SNODGRASS.
Subject to the decision of the City Republican Convention.

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James Caldwell & Co.
ARE NOW OFFERING,
AT
VERY LOW PRICES,
A Large Stock of
DOMESTIC & HOUSEKEEPING
GOODS.
9-4 and 10-4 Brown and Bleached Sheetings of all the popular makes.
9-8, 5-4 and 6-4 Pillow Case Muslins.
Fruit of the Loom, Bay Mills, Lonsdale, Wamsutta, Pride of the West and New York Mills Shirting Muslins.
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Brown and Bleached Damask Table Linens, Towels and Napkins.
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Marsailles Quilts, Honey Comb and Croquet Quilts very cheap.
New and very Choice Styles in Shirting Prints, Cambrics and Percales.
Prints, Chintzes and Ginghams.
Black Cashmeres and Merinos.
Silk Warp Henrietta Cloths.
Cloaks and Furs at very Low Prices, to close out our Winter Stock.
115 and 117
FEDERAL ST.,
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Persons desiring to procure Patents, or wishing to obtain information from the U. S. Patent Office, are advised to consult P. A. LEHMANN, C. of Washington, D. C., corner of Sev Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh Send for circular

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1877.
NEW
AT WM. SEMPLE'S, 1
Our House having had a Buyer in New and Desirable Goods, embracing a
We are also in receipt of, and open direct importation, making our Stock t
Particular attention is respectfully inbiting. Value being much better and
In FANCY GOODS of all kinds our Families, the Clergy, and others b
Orders by mail receive prompt and Our Omnibus, running at regular i
DRESS SILKS.
At 85, 90c and $1, new Black Silks, extra good value.
At $1 12½, $1 15 and $1 25, extra heavy Black Dress Silks.
At $1 37½, $1 40 and $1 50, new Black Silks, superior qualities.
At $1 60, $1 75, $2 and up, very fine Black Dress Silks.
DRESS SILKS.
At $1, choice line of new shades Brown Silks.
At $1 25 up, new line of shades in Colored Silks.
A new line of Fancy Dress Silks at new low prices.
A new line of Mourning Dress Silks, very low.
CASHMERES.
At 25 to 50c, fine Wool Black Cashmeres.
At 25 to 50c, fine Wool Colored Cashmeres.
At 60c to $3 50, Fine Wool, All Wool, Silk Warp Black Cashmeres.
At 50c to $2 50, extra fine Colored Cashmeres.
DRESS GOODS.
At 10c up, all colors in Knickerbocker Suitings.
At 12½c, choice new line of new Dress Goods
At 12½c, Wool Tycoon Repps, best styles.
At 18½c, new shades in Plain Dress Goods.
DRESS GOODS.
At 18½c, all colors in new Cashmeres.
At 25c, new novelties in Fancy Dress Goods,
At 25c, English Basket Cloth Suitings, worth 37½c.
At 37½ to $1 50, elegant new line Dress Goods
LADIES' CLOAKS.
At $1 50, heavy Wool Beaver Cloth Sacques.
At $2 and $2 50, heavy Beaver Cloth Sacques, formerly $4.
At $3 and $4, Long Sacques in Beaver, Chinchilla and Diagonal.
At $4 50 up, New Cloaks—much less than former prices.
☞OUR PATRONS WILL FIND THIS LECT AND MAKE THEIR PURCHASE ARE HELD FORTH, AND POSITIVE
1877 1877
$8.00
THE
Pittsburgh Commercial
FOR 1877.
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE REDUCED
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EIGHT DOLLARS.
Cheapest Business Paper in the State.
UNSURPASSED AS A
POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL
AND
General Newspaper.
The PITTSBURGH DAILY COMMERCIAL, from and after the 1st of January, 1877, will be mailed to subscribers, in the United States, at EIGHT DOLLARS per annum, postage prepaid. The paper, which has heretofore so freely found its way to the business office of the Banker, the Merchant and the Manufacturer, and has so firmly maintained its character as a medium for the dissemination of reliable information concerning Financial and Commercial affairs, will commend itself more largely to all classes of traders, now that its price has been so materially reduced. It is not only the purpose of the management to keep the Business Departments of the COMMERCIAL fully up to the standard of past years, but to improve them, from time to time, by introducing such new features as the necessities of trade and a proper regard for the interests of the patrons may require.
IN POLITICS
The COMMERCIAL will endeavor to pursue the same course which has characterized it in past years. It will support Republican principles, always exercising the right to freely criticise party measures which do not meet its approval, and to condemn the acts of party friends when these acts do not comport with its sense of right and justice. It will remain faithful to the great principles and traditions upon which the Republican party was based, and will espouse the cause of no clique or faction. The grave questions which now agitate the country, and which must in due time reach a proper end (as we believe) peaceful solution, will be full of interest to the general reader, and will be calmly and dispassionately, but firmly, discussed, in all their bearings.
THE NEWS DEPARTMENTS
Will be fully up to the demands of the reading public. In addition to the Associated Press, giving the news from all parts of the world, arrangements have been made for Special Telegraphic Reports from Washington, from the National and State Capitals, and from other important centers.
In the columns devoted to the publication of Local News will be found a complete daily history of the City and its environs, gathered by a corps of careful writers and set forth in attractive style.
THE MARKETS
Will, as heretofore, receive careful attention. Full telegraphic reports of the State of Business, with Prices Current, will be received daily from the Trade Centers of this country and Europe. The Pittsburgh Market, in all its branches, will be reported fully and accurately. As a commercial journal the COMMERCIAL stands second to no paper in the country.
The Financial Column will keep the run of the ruling rates for money and the prices of Stocks and Bonds at all the great trading points, with much interesting statistical matter.
INTERESTING MISCELLANY,
Embracing Poems, Sketches, Incidents of Travel, etc., will find a place in the columns of the COMMERCIAL, furnishing abundance of instruction and amusement for the family circle.
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A PAPER FOR
THE FARMER,
THE MECHANIC,
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Will contain in condensed form all the
NEWS OF THE DAY,
Including the Proceedings of Congress and of the Legislatures of Neighboring States, Interesting Correspondence, Choice Selections and
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Terms for 1877.
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FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, January 29, 1877.

Financial circles here are barren of financial news, the universal answer to inquiries for it being that there is none to tell. The banks report an abundant surplus of funds and but a light demand for accommodations, which are readily granted upon paper which will stand the keen scrutiny to which all is subjected. There is the demand from regular customers, but outside of this banking is a slow business. The calls for small loans, which usually indicate some movement in business life, are rare, and there are no immediate prospects of their becoming more frequent. Money is flowing back and forth between country and city houses, but the tide has no significance as to the future. The future has brought so many disappointments of late that the prevalent sentiment among capitalists is hope, rather than expectation. The usual rates of discount continue, of 7@9 S per cent. on prime commercial paper and 6@7 per cent. on first-class collaterals.

—The statistics of last year's commercial failures have been viewed in every possible light and examined in every detail by those who were anxious to learn wisdom from experience or gain consolation in misfortune. One of the interesting results of this painstaking examination is a table showing the proportion of failures to the number in business in the several States, together with the average liability. Following is the table:

	Av'age One in Bus'y.	One in Bus'y.	Av'age One in Bus'y.	One in Bus'y.
R. Island	30	$16,061	Illinois	79	$15,139
Mich'gan	79	16,904	Maine	79	13,888
Colorado	40	11,140	Virginia	79	19,488
Iowa	42	5,116	Ohio	93	14,514
Nebraska	45	5,166	Ohio	93	18,421
N. Carolina	48	7,260	Louisiana	96	17,979
Georgia	50	9,405	Wisconsin	96	25,040
Mass	50	32,000	Vermont	95	19,328
S. Carolina	50	7,134	Indiana	97	15,744
Tennessee	52	14,111	Arkansas	102	7,994
New York	57	27,880	Florida	103	8,636
Minnesota	60	11,160	Penn	109	21,903
California	62	15,053	New Jersey	112	14,236
Connecticut	63	21,239	Missouri	113	22,301
Kentucky	63	27,873	Kansas	147	9,069
Indiana	69	13,227	Delaware	151	11,032
Mississippi	70	9,114	New Hamp.	153	11,502

It is curious to observe that Kansas, a young State, which has endured drought and grasshoppers and heavy taxation during recent years, suffered from only one failure among every one hundred and forty-seven of her business men, their average liability being $9,060; while Rhode Island, where wealth has been accumulating for centuries and where it would be supposed credit would rest upon the surest foundations, suffered from one among every thirty-six, their average liability reaching $44,631. Comparing the commercial statistics of our own State with those of one of the older and larger Eastern States, Massachusetts, for instance, we discover a difference in numbers that may be instructive and would be cheering if the subject were a happier one. The failures in that State were one among every fifty of her business men, their average liability being $32,646; while in our own State they were one in every 109, the average liability being only $21,983. There is perhaps no way of determining exactly the relative embarrassment of the cotton manufacturers of Massachusetts and the iron manufacturers of Pennsylvania as a result of the panic, but the difference cannot be great and upon this may arise a question as to the business methods pursued in the two States.

—The following is a comparison of the New York Bank averages for the past two weeks:

	Jan. 20.	Jan. 27.	Difference.
Loans	$252,411,900	$253,156,100	Inc. $744,200
Specie	46,187,000	46,187,000	Dec. 787,900
Legal tenders	40,128,000	42,251,200	Inc. 2,123,200
Deposits	267,360,100	267,360,100	Inc. 3,252,400
Circulation	18,810,900	18,805,900	Dec. 4,900

The following shows the relations between the total reserve and the total liabilities!

	Jan. 20.	Jan. 27.	Difference.
Specie	$46,187,000	$46,187,000	Dec. $787,900
Legal tenders	40,128,000	42,251,200	Inc. 2,123,200
Total reserve	$ 87,163,700	$ 88,438,200	Inc. $1,335,400
Reserve required to against deposits	66,839,700	67,055,025	
Exc as of reserve above legal requirements	24,278,000	24,781,800	Inc $503,800

—As to the general dullness in English business affairs, reflected in the profits of banks, the *Economist* publishes a comparison between the last half year for 1876, 1875 and 1874, in the cases of seven principal joint stock banks. The average rate per annum for 1874 was 13 43 per cent.; for 1875, 11 71 per cent.; for 1876, 10¾ per cent. The London and Westminster, which made 22 per cent. in 1874, made only 14 per cent. last year; the Union Bank sank from 15 per cent. to 12½ per cent.; the London Joint Stock fr 22 per cent. to 17, while the others showed smaller rates, both of profit and of decrease in profit. A somewhat better showing is made by the railway companies, seven out of eight showing an increase of traffic for the half year of 1 per cent., but this is more than offset by an increase of working expenses, leaving smaller net gains on a distributable capital on an increased capital. In the iron trade of the North of England there has been a considerable fall in prices, without any corresponding reduction of the cost of labor. There is some improvement in iron other than rails, but these latter have fallen in price and in production. They now constitute but 47.50 per cent. of the total smelted last year, whereas two years since they were 51 per cent.

—Imports and exports of the United States for the month ended November 30, 1876, and for the eleven months ended the same, compared with the corresponding periods of 1875. Prepared and published by the United States Bureau of Statistics. Corrected to January 10, 1877:

IMPORTS—VALUES.

	Month ended November 30— 1876.	1875.	Eleven months ended November 30— 1876.	1875.
Total dutiable	$20,047,351	$23,943,044	$281,203,709	$325,613,040
Total free of duty	16,401,044	15,196,570	185,614,644	175,651,616
Total coin and bullion	$ 6,904,225	$ 2,206,209	$ 32,895,111	$ 32,895,111
Total merchandise	29,524,176	36,932,345	304,240,546	304,240,546
Total imports	$36,447,400	$39,102,623	$416,825,357	
Entered for consumption	$28,420,865	$29,414,022	$296,604,494	
Entered for warehouse	7,553,802	9,137,926	113,208,930	
Entered for immediate transportation to interior ports without appraisement	467,733	549,772	7,534,933	
Withdrawn from warehouse for consumption	1,105,413	1,220,046	10,222,623	
Exported in American vessels	7,513,217	10,263,971	125,124,442	
Exported in foreign vessels	27,782,770	27,548,620	281,461,277	

DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

Shipped in cars and other land vehicles	$625,457	$415,178	$3,405,701
Shipped in American vessels	15,135,040	18,270,612	140,410,122
Shipped in foreign vessels	48,519,470	42,584,628	462,879,919
Grand total	$64,199,932	$32,270,418	$606,695,842
Total value of merchandise (mixed and specie)	62,315,681	59,730,388	560,859,301
Total value of coin and bullion	1,884,251	2,540,030	45,835,451
Total value of merchandise	57,468,722	52,449,980	504,333,867
FOREIGN EXPORTS.			
Total dutiable	$4,387,991	$1,088,406	$ 9,197,167
Total free of duty	736,259	1,181,058	10,141,316
Total value of coin and bullion	$ 513,091	$ 920,333	$ 7,124,107
Total value of merchandise	4,641,159	1,349,131	12,214,375
Aggregate	$ 5,124,270	$ 2,269,464	$ 20,338,483
From warehouse	$ 1,355,903	$ 977,162	$ 8,008,748
Not from warehouse	768,367	1,292,302	11,429,852
Exported in cars and other land vehicles	225,719	181,142	1,769,008
Exported in American vessels	1,105,087	339,518	6,564,494
Exported in foreign vessels	793,433	1,718,803	12,005,072

Remaining in warehouse November 30, 1876, $21,-612,161. Remaining in warehouse November 30, 1875, $20,-742,816.

[By Associated Press.]
Gold Closed at 105¾

MONEY.

NEW YORK, January 29.—Money easy at 3@4 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 4½@6 per cent. Sterlng commercial bills $479.900@$480. Assistant Treasurer disbursed $127,000. Clearings $20,000,000. Sterling firm at 483¾@485¼.

GOLD.

Gold was weak and declined from 106 to 105¾, closing at the latter figure. Carrying rate 4@6 per cent. Silver at London 57¾, hence customs receipts for the day in gold per ounce in greenbacks and 121½ in gold; silver coin 124½.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds active and lower. Railroad bonds irregularly dull and rose securities weak and lower. State bonds steady, except Tennessees, which were active. The chief feature of speculation at the Stock Exchange was a break of 3 per cent. in New Jersey Central. This further heavy decline in the stock was not accompanied by any need explanation, although heavy sales were made for Philadelphia account, the same as on Saturday. The general impression here is that the stock heretofore held for bull account is being gradually unloaded in consequence of the recent decline and the bad condition of the company's finances. To day there was an entire absence of any unfavorable rumor about Philadelphia institutions carrying obligations of each other's stocks, but in their place there was a rumor afloat that New Jersey Central would go to protest to-day on some of its paper. This rumor could not be verified, although it undoubtedly found sufficient credence to depress the stock for the reason that the company has a large amount of paper afloat. The tumble in New Jersey Central had a marked influence upon general share speculation. After the day and turned the market from firmness to depression. There was a decline in the active list of from ¼ to 1½ per cent., which was partially recovered in late dealings, when New Jersey Central rallied 2 per cent. and Delaware, Lackawanna and Western 1½ from the lowest point. A dispatch from Philadelphia states that Mr. E. W. Clark, President of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, has been chosen Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company, and has accepted the position. Mr. Parrish remains as President of the company. Transactions 150,000 shares, of which 24,000 were Western Union, 11,000 St. Paul, 43,000 Lake Shore, 7,000 Michigan Central, 27,000 Delaware, Lackawanna and Western and 33,000 New Jersey Central. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.

West. Union Tel.	79½	Rock Island	101¾
Quicksilver	36½	St. Paul	17¾
Do. preferred	18	Do. preferred	48¾
Pacific Mail	24¾	Toledo & Wabash	6¾
Maripos	10¾	Ft. Wayne	100½
Do. preferred	34	Terre Haute	3
Atlantic & Pacific	19½	Union Pac. stock	64
Wells-Fargo Ex	84	Chicago & Alton	101
American Ex	56½	Do. preferred	110
United States Ex	50	Ohio & Mississippi	6¾
New York Central	101¾	Bur. & Quincy	117¾
Erie	15½	Del. & Lack	93¾
Do. preferred	15	A. & P. Tel. Co	15
Harlem	140	Missouri Pacific	19½
Do. preferred	130	Indiana Central	13
Michigan Central	47¾	Hannibal & St. Jos.	13¾
Panama	97	Illinois Cent. stock	94
Lake Shore	55½	Central Pac. bds	108¾
Cleve. and Pitts	92¾	Union Pac. bds	103¾
Illinois Central	85¾	Do. land grants	101¾
Northwestern	35	Do. S. F. bonds	95½
Do. preferred	56¾		

C., C. & I. 34

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	113¾	New 4½'s	111¾
U. S. 5-20's, 1865	107¾	New 5's	107¼
5-20's, 1865, new	110¾	10-40's, registered	113½
5-20's, 1867	113½	10-40's, coupons	114½
5-20's, 1868	116¾	Currency 6's	123¾

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old	43	Virginia, old	30
Tennessee, new	42¼	Missouri 6's	104¾
Virginia, new	30		

NEW ORLEANS, January 29, 5 P. M.—The bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balances to-day is £214,000. Consols 97 15-16. U. S. 5-20's, 1865, 106¾; do 1867, 109¾; 10-40's, 110¾; new 5's, 107¾. Railroad securities—New York Central 99; Erie 9¾; preferred 21¾.

PARIS, January 29.—Rentes 107 francs, 87½ centimes.

FRANKFORT, January 29.—United States bonds—New 5's 103¼.

NEW ORLEANS, January 29.—Gold 106¼@106½. Sight exchange on New York ¼ per cent. discount. Sterling exchange 513½.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, Monday, January 29, 1877.

Any description of the general market s here to-day can be only a repetition of such as has been given repeatedly of late. Our street s show a good deal of activity, and judging by this, one would consider business fast reviving; but conversation with dealers in every department of trade reveals the old complaint of slack times. The utmost that is done in any department is no more than enough to encourage hope, which is more of our business can indulge in. The country demand for provisions and groceries is small, and with no doubt continue so until it can be determined which way prices will go, when a positive movement is made in our commercial life. Considerable quantities of grain and other country products are arriving by steamer, but they have not yet made any noticeable impression upon prices. To-day we have to report a very few changes and none of striking significance. The weather has been beautiful, but travel rather unpleasant on account of the thaw.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city since our last are as follows:

Flour, bbls	12,60
Barley, bus	5,6
Corn, bush	1,1
Rye, bush	250
Butter, pkgs	75

Bacon, lbs 67,200
Potatoes 2,724

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—The inquiries continue to be frequent, and the offerings are becoming so, but as yet there have been none but small transactions, which left quotations about as they have for some time been reported. Corn is coming from down the river, and is easier but without quotable changes. Oats hold their own, the supply meeting the demand. Rye and barley are dull. Wheat is without change. Our quotations of grain are: Prime red wheat at $1 47@1 48; prime amber $1 46@1 50; prime white $1 48@1 53. Corn—Ear, 53@55c ₱ bushel; prime shelled 51@52c. Oats—Prime white, 36@37c ₱ bush; mixed 36@38c. Rye 75@75c ₱ bushel. Barley 85c ₱ bushel for choice; 75@80c for good to prime spring; $1 00 for prime fall; for low grades 60c.

FLOUR—The market is entirely without change in any way, and stands firm at the figures given below. We quote No. 1 white wheat flour at $8 00@9 00 ₱ barrel; No. 1 amber do $8 00; prime red wheat flour $6 00; Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota $7 75@8 00; fancy St. Louis $9 25@9 75; pancake flour $9 50; Graham flour $7 75@7 25; cornmeal for 9 bushel; oatmeal $6 00@6 50 ₱ barrel; keg's $3 75@4 00; rye flour $4 75 in sacks $4 75 ₱ barrel.

MILL FEED—The market is strong and the demand lively. We quote bran at $18 00@19 00 ₱ ton at Pittsburgh wholesale, and $20 00@21 00 in a jobbing way; middlings $22 00@25 00; seconds and shipstuffs $16 00@18 00; chopped feed $20 00@22 00.

HAY—The supply is sufficient and the demand fair. We quote: No. 1 timothy $13 00@15 00; No. 2 timothy $12 00@13 00 from first hands baled. Prairie—Upland $11 00@12 00; mixed $9 00@10 00.

Country Produce.

The market for produce is very dull, and the large supply so frequently mentioned not seriously diminished. There is but the slightest demand for any but a few articles. Quotations remain substantially unaltered.

APPLES—Are in full supply and we quote the best at $4 50@5 75 ₱ barrel; low grades at $2 50@3 50 ₱ bush.

APPLE BUTTER—No demand, or but a light one, and quoted at 3½@4c ₱ gallon as to quality.

BEESWAX—A little scarce, and quoted at 30@33c ₱ lb.

BEANS—Are in fair demand at $1 90@2 25@2 50, according to quality, for prime white navy. Lima beans, new crop, $4 50 per bushel.

BUTTER—The demand is quite dull for the spring trade, manufacturers and jobbers having stock and not now an advance to secure such kinds. We quote: Choice half firkin or tub, 27@28c; good to prime, 25@26c; fair to ordinary, 22@24c; low grades, 18@20c; inferior not desired; crooked in fair demand at about 33 per cent. off the prices given, as to quality.

HORS—Nothing doing and prices rather nominal than real. Quoted at 7@8c ₱ lb for new hops.

SHAKER DRIED CORN—Fair supply and quoted at 9c ₱ lb.

HOMINY—Demand moderate at $3 50@3 75 ₱ barrel.

NUTS—Hickory nuts dull at 75c@$1 00 per bushel; shellbarks, a light demand and quoted at $1 00@1 50.

ONIONS—Still scarce and quoted at $3 25@3 50 ₱ bbl.

HONEY—California comb 22c ₱ lb; home honey 20c.

CRANBERRIES—Supply sufficient and market dull. The quotations are $4 00 ₱ bbl; $1 25@3 50 ₱ bush.

CIDER—A dull market and prices unchanged at $3 50@4 50, barrel included, for common; $5 00@5 50 for extra choice.

DRIED FRUITS—The supply is abundant and the demand very limited. We quote dried apples at 4@5c ₱ lb for prime quarters; 6@7c for sliced; dried peaches 10@12c; evaporated peaches 15@23c per pound according to quality.

DRIED PEAS—The demand is good for new crop at $1 5@1 60 ₱ bushel.

BUTTER—All grades are in full supply; the demand moderate. We quote: Choice solid packed 25@27c per lb; do roll 22@25c; choice dairy rolls 18@20c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—In fair demand at $3 75@4 00 per cwt for prime; $3 50@3 75 for fair.

CHEESE—We quote prime Ohio factory at 14@14½c; in round lots, jobbing at 15@15½c. New York cheese 15½@16c in round lots; 16@16½c in a jobbing way. Young American 18c; nutmeg 15c.

SEEDS—As sowing time is yet some distance in the future, there is not much demand for seed, though inquiries are increasing. The rates at the store are: Cloverseed $5 50@6 00 ₱ bushel or 62 lbs; timothy seed $2 00@2 15.

FEATHERS—Hardly any fresh arrivals in market. We quote fresh at 32@35c ₱ dozen and pickied at 24@26c.

FEATHERS—Choice are quoted at 55@60c ₱ lb at wholesale; 60@70c in a jobbing way; mixed are quoted at 30@40c ₱ lb at wholesale; 40@45c in a jobbing way.

DRESSED HOGS—Not very plentiful, and quoted at 7½c ₱ lb.

POULTRY—Demand slow and supply sufficient. We quote quotations are: Live chickens 6c ₱ lb. We quote live turkeys at 75c@$1 00 each; dressed 12@13c ₱ lb. Live chickens in lots, 6@6½c ₱ lb; pair lots, 5@6c; single pair; dressed 12@13 ₱ lb. Geese 50@60c each; dressed 8@9c ₱ lb.

PROVISIONS—We quote from store, the previous prices continuing unchanged, but a decline looked for owing to the large receipts in the river. Prime peachblows, all 30@31 35 ₱ bushel; early rose at 29@31 2c Peerless at 25. Sweet potatoes at 50 ₱ bush.

VINEGAR—There is scarcely anything doing. We quote cider vinegar, 8c; Rose, 11c; white spirits, country stock; 11c for best city make; wine vinegar 25c.

WOOL—Nothing doing. Common fleece, 2 ₱ lb, 33c; ¼ to full blood, ₱ lb, 33@37c; combing, ₱ lb, 40c; tub-washed, ₱ lb, 38c; city pullings, ₱ lb, 35@36c; unwashed, ₱ lb, 18@20c.

Provisions.

The provision trade was slow, and the market without events. The only change we have to record is a decline in lard and mess pork. We reduce our lard quotations ½c per pound, except in the case of the three and five pound cans.

BACON—Shoulders 8¾c per pound; short rib sides 10¾c; clear sides 10¾c.

CUT AND CURED MEATS—Hams are firm at 12¾c ₱ lb for extra sugar cured. Breakfast bacon rules strong, and we quote sugar-cured at 12¾c. Sugar-cured shoulders were steady at 9c. Dried beef, sugar cured, 10c. Smoked beef tongues, per dozen, are quoted at $6 50.

LARD—Kettle lard, tierces, 113c; ¼ bbls 12¾c; pails 12¾c. Refined lard—Tierces 12c; ½ bbls 12¾c; ½ pails 13c; 1 pails 13½c; 2 pails 13½c; 5 pails 14½c; 5 ₱ do, 14½c; 3-5 caddies, 14½c; 5-5 do 14½c.

LARD OIL—Cincinnati oil, double extra $1 00@1 05 ₱ gal; extra 90@95c; No. 1, 78@80c; No. 2, 65@70c; winter strained 80@85c; miners' yellow winter 57c. Pittsburgh oil, double extra winter strained 85c ₱ gal; No. 1 do 80c; No. 2 do 65c.

MESS PORK—Following are the ruling quotations: Mess $19 50 ₱ bbl. The market is reported quiet and firm.

TALLOW—We quote chandlers, city rendered, at 7½c ₱ lb; country do 7½c ₱ lb; rough 5½c ₱ lb.

Groceries.

The grocery market was quiet to-day and without changes except in standard sugars, it having toned up since Saturday, and recovered the decline in sugars which was noted then. Below we give the ruling quotations:

Green Coffees.	₱ lb.	*Sugars.*	₱ lb.
Fancy Rio	24½c	Standard A	11½c
Choice Rio	23½c	Extra C	11½c
Prime Rio	22½c	Do. extra C	11 c
Good Rio	21 c	Extra yellow	9¾@10 c
Ordinary Rio	20 c	C—Yellow	9¼@ 9¾c
Java	30½c	Franklin, B. 10	10½c
Roasted Coffees.		New Orleans	8¾@10 c
Rio in papers	27 @28½c	Cut Loaf	13½c
24 grades do	25 @28 c	Crushed	12½c
Rio, in bulk	24½@28 c	Powdered	12½c
Java, in prs	32 @36 c	Granulated	12½c
Java, in bulk	30½@35 c	*Molasses.*	₱ gall.
Teas.		Stry ch. N. O.	60@62c
Young Hyson	25c@1 00	Prime	55@58c
Gunpowder	25 @1 00		
Imperial	30@60	Ex. white drips	61@65c
Japan	25@60	Sugar drips	56@58c
Oolong	25@60	Sugar grades	52@56c
Fancy do	1 00	*Starch.*	₱ lb
Souchong	28@60	Pearl	3½@4 c
Spices (whole).		Silver gloss	6 @7½c
Cassia	45 c	Corn	7½@10½c
Alspice	20@21 c	*Candles.*	
Pepper	20 c	Chicago corn	8½c
Nutmegs	@1 15	*Rice.*	
Cloves	18 c	Choice Carolina	6½@7 c
		Louisiana	5½@6½c
		Soda.	
Irish soap, ₱ box	.$4 20	Bi-carb, in kgs	4½@5 c
S. S. Star, ₱ box	4 75	Bi-carb, in 10-lb papers	6½c
Babbitt's best, ₱ box	6 75	Bi-carb in 5-lb papers	6½c
Gold do	6 25	Sal-soda	1½c
Extra olive do	7 00	*Candies.*	
Do. N. Y. City, ₱ box	6 25	Star, full w't	16 c
German mottled do	7	Stearine	11@13 c
California, ₱ box	4 20	Mould	12½@13c

CANNED GOODS—No change in prices. We quote green peas, 2 ₱ cans ₱ dozen, $2 00@2 25; raspberries do $1 85; strawberries do $1 65; gooseberries do $1 85; pineapples do, $2 00; blackberries do, $1 50; peaches, 3 ₱ cans per box, $2 25; tomatoes do, $1 55; pickles, bulk, $5 25; hatchbills $4 75.

FISH—Following are the ruling quotations ₱ which sales are made:

Per bbl.		Per bbl.	
Extra No. 1 Mess		Round herring	$5 50
mackerel	$27 00	Split herring	do 6 00
Extra No. 1 shore	20 00	Lake Pick., k'f-bbls	3 50
Extra No. 1 bay	17 00	Lake Herring, do	2 75
Extra No. 2 large	13 00	Lake Trout	6 00
No. 2 medium	12 50	fish, ₱ lb	6
Large No. 3	12 00	Medium codfish	5½
No. 3 medium	9 00	Halibut, ₱ lb	12½
Whitefish, bf-bbls	5 75	No. 1 Herring, ₱ box	35
Lake Trout, do	4 50	Scaled herring do	40

FOREIGN FRUITS—The market is quiet and prices rule as below. We quote: Layers raisins, new, per box, $2 25; London layers, new, $3 25; Muscatel $3 40; mat Valentias, new, 9½@9¾c ₱ lb; sultanas 17c. Dates 8@8½c ₱ lb. Currants 7½c. Citron 30c. Prunes, old, 6½@c; new, 8½c. Almonds—Languedoc 22c; do shelled 38c; do Princess 37c; do Jordan 35c, do Ivica 22c. Walnuts—Naples 20c; Marbiot 15c; Sicily filberts 16c. Smyrna figs, new, 14c. Brazil nuts 10c. Maccaroni 11@18c. Tapioca 10c. Lemons—Palermo, ₱ box, $2 25; Messina—Florida $3 50 ₱ box. Cocoanuts $7 00 ₱ hundred.

Petroleum.

January 29—The refined market continues dull; in fact, there is no inquiry for round lots There seems to be a stand off between buyers and sellers, and has been for some time. Until there is an improvement in the East and the European markets, there will be no movement here. We quote nominally 24½c for small lots for home purposes. At New York the market is quite active, the demand being unimproved. Holders are still demanding 29¾c for oil in shipping order, while settlement sales are made on the basis of 25@26c. Refiners are lower with offers to c lat 30@31½c. At Baltimore and Philadelphia 25 to 26c. Reading refiners do not note as relates to prices or demand, the nominal rates for standard white being 25½c cases 30c.

OIL BARRELS—Are dull, with liberal receipts and very few calls made on country at $1 15.

PARKER, January 29, 6 P. M.—The crude oil market has been depressed throughout the day, the new well at Million run causing a feeling of heaviness of which the bears took advantage by offering large lots of oil and selling the price down, establishing a decline of 10c on Saturday's quotation. Conduit and United opened at $3 48½, rapidly declined to $3 45, where it stabilized for a short time, again giving way to $3 40. At this it point rallied a trifle, touching $3 42½, then broke further to $3 37½, the present price. Shipment negotiated. No offers for Allegheny or Parker's prices with no open transactions. Shipments from the lower district for the 27th inst. 15,208 barrels.

[By Western Union Telegraph.]

OIL CITY, January 29.—The *Derrick* says of Saturday's market: "Early in the day the market dropped to $3 49½ and closed with that price bid for strictly fresh certificates and $3 48½ for old. There has been a little shading."

Interesting features, and a large portion of the time the Exchange was almost deserted. Shipment from Allegheny for the week ending The opening quotation is $3 65. Sales and re sales 35,000 barrels.

NEW YORK, January 27, closing 28—Refiners hold to crude at figures, while the small lots in outside hands are offered at a decline. The demand is unimportant. Refined from second hands is offered in small lots at 24@25c. Prices are as follows for New York delivery: Crude in bulk 15½c; in barrels 16½c; city naphtha 14c. In shipping orders refined is quoted 5½c for spot; cases 30@33½c. At Philadelphia and Baltimore refined, spot, rules at 25½c.

TITUSVILLE, January 29.—Crude oil sold at $3 60.

OIL CITY, January 29.—Market weak and declining; United $3 55 asked; immediate shipment $3 65 asked.

TITUSVILLE, January 29.—Market quiet; held at $3 67½.

PARKERSBURG, January 29.—Market unsettled; United opened at $3 49½, and declined to $3 45½; closed now at $3 47½ bid; shipment neglected at $3 45.

PHILADELPHIA, January 29.—Market quiet; crude 15½c; cases 30c; standard white 26½c.

[By Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, January 29.—Petroleum dull and nominal; crude 13½c; refined 25½c; city naptha 14c.

PHILADELPHIA, January 29.—Petroleum dull; crude in barrels 16c; refined 24@25c.

LIVERPOOL, January 29.—Refined petroleum 17s 6d; spirits do 10½d.

LONDON, January 29.—Refined petroleum 18¾.

ANTWERP, January 29.—Refined petroleum 51¾ francs.

MOVEMENTS OF PETROLEUM.

	Barrels.
Crude receipts, A. V. R. R.	2,419
Refined shipments, A. V. R. R.	4,630

General Merchandise.

ALCOHOL AND HIGHWINES—We quote alcohol at $2 18@2 20 ₱ gallon; highwines at $1 19 ₱ gallon.

BAGS AND BAGGING—There is a fair demand and prices rule as follows: Extra gunny bags 22c; do second-hand 18c; Lanch bags 24c; American A's 30c; Philadelphia A's 23c; California grain bags 9c; English do light from Mill 3 for bales 2 lbs each 10c; do 2 bushel 24c; Allegheny 2 bushel do 22c.

BAKING POWDER—Quoted as follows: ¼ ₱ cans $1 50 ₱ dozen; ½ ₱ cans 90c; 1 ₱ cans $1 65; 5 ₱ cans $8 00; 10 ₱ boxes 40c ₱ lb. Market steady and unchanged.

BLEACHING—We stated recently that on account of the advance in leather the manufacturers of belting had raised the prices from 4 per foot upon all sizes up to 16 inches. The advance which was made then is still maintained. The market has no special features to-day, and the prices which we give below are firm. The list of prices are as follows:

Per foot.		Per foot.	
1 inch wide	5	inches wide	57
1¼ inch wide	5½	inches wide	63
1½ inches wide	6	inches wide	69
2 inches wide	7	inches wide	81
2½ inches wide	8	inches wide	93
3 inches wide	9@10	inches wide	1 17
4 inches wide	12	inches wide	1 41
4½ inches wide	13	inches wide	1 65

Discount 15 to 25 per cent., as to quality and quantity.

BROOMS—We note considerable activity in brooms, now that spring is near at hand, and an advance is expected. For the present the following are the jobbing rates as quoted by manufacturers' agents:

No. 1 hurl	$1 50
No. 2 hurl	1 75
No. 3 hurl	2 00
No. 4 hurl	2 25
No. 5 hurl	2 50
No. 6 hurl	2 75
No. 7 carpet	3 25
No. 8 carpet	3 75
No. 3 fancy parlor	4 00
No. 4 fancy parlor	4 25
Hallroad (extra heavy)	2 75@3 00
Hotel, fine corn (extra heavy)	4 00@5 00
Whisps, 6, 8 and 10 inch	1 00@2 50
Toy brooms	1 25@1 50
Misses' brooms	2 00

CRACKERS—Demand active and prices higher. We quote crackers—Soda or sugar crackers 9½c; butter crackers 9¾c; soda crackers 6½c; extra Boston 10c; extra soda 10c; ginger snaps 10c; Graham biscuit 11½c. Trenton hard made crackers 9c per pound.

FIRES AND LEATHER—The market for leather just now is somewhat repressed, owing to unfavorable advices from the East, and we quote a decline in a few kinds of leather. The market for hides remains steady at the following unchanged quotations:

Leather		*Hides.*	
Oak sole, country ₱ lb	30@	Green salted cows	8 @8½
Oak sole, city	36@	Green salted steers, light	8 @8½
Red sole, Ayres heavy	30@	Green salted steers, heavy	7 @7½
Red sole, Buenos Ayres mid	29@	Green salted calf	12 @13
Red sole, Orinoco and Cala.	28@	Green butcher cows	5½
Red sole, Orinoco and Cala. mid	28@	Green butcher steers, light	6
Red sole, good damaged	25@	Green butcher steers, heavy	7
Oak, rough	27@	Green butcher calf	8
Harness, city oak	36@	*Hemlock.*	
Harness, country	30@	Hemlock, No. 1	17
Harness, No. 2 and common	27@	Hemlock, No. 2	16
Collar, oak sides, ₱ foot	19@	Hemlock, No. 3	15
Fair skirting ₱ lb	30@	Hemlock, No. 4	13
Fair bridle and linn, ₱ doz	84 00@96 00	Hemlock, No. 5	12
Belt leather ₱ lb	39@	*Calf.*	
Finished leather ₱ lb	40@	Calf, city, ₱ lb	90@1 00
Finished upper, ₱ foot	16@	Calf, French, ₱ lb	1 40@1 60
Finished kips ₱ lb	50@	Calf, country, ₱ lb	75@90

OSWEGO, January 29.—Wheat dull; No. 1 white Michigan at 1 62; extra white Michigan at 1 60; No. 2 Milwaukee club 1 50. Corn—Eastern mixed 60c.

BOSTON, January 29.—Flour unchanged. Corn steady; mixed and yellow 60@63c. Oats—No. 2 mixed and No. 3 white 38@39c; rejected 35@36c.

Dry Goods.

NEW YORK, January 29.—The cotton goods market was fairly active and firm. Continental brown sheetings now in first hands remain firm and strong. Pacific prints advanced to 6c. Woolen goods in moderate request and steady. Dress goods rather more active and cotton hosiery moving freely.

Cotton.

NEW YORK, January 29.—Cotton quiet at 12¼@12½c. Futures closed steady: February 12 16c; March 12¾c; April 13 15-16c.

LIVERPOOL, January 29.—Cotton flat. Sales of 8,000 bales, including 1,000 for speculation and export and 5,000 American.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMERS.

DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK.

Celtic	February 3...Liverpool.
Egypt	February 3...Liverpool.
Victoria	February 3...Glasgow.
Weser	February 3...Bremen.
Rembwith	February 3...Antwerp.
Algeria	February 7...Liverpool.
Alsatia	February 7...Liverpool.
State of Penn's	February 8...Glasgow.
Labrador	February 10...Havre.
Adriatic	February 10...Liverpool.
Bolivia	February 10...Glasgow.
Italia	February 10...London.
Rhein	February 10...Bremen.
Hindoo	February 10...Hull.
Dakota	February 14...Liverpool.
Parthia	February 14...Liverpool.
Gellert	February 15...Hamburg.
Ohio	February 17...Liverpool.
City of Richmond	February 17...Liverpool.
Asiatic	February 17...Glasgow.
Oder	February 17...Bremen.
City of Chester	February 17...Liverpool.
Nevada	February 20...Liverpool.
China	February 21...Liverpool.
State of Virginia	February 22...Glasgow.
Pomerania	February 22...Hamburg.
Britannic	February 24...Liverpool.
Republic	February 27...Liverpool.
Batavian	February 28...Liverpool.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

City of New York	February 8...Liverpool.
Aderland	February 15...Antwerp.
Indiana	February 24...Liverpool.
Illinois	February 22...Liverpool.

FROM BOSTON.

Hecla	February 6...Liverpool.
Olympus	February 13...Liverpool.
Alias	February 27...Liverpool.
Marathon	February 27...Liverpool.

RIVER TELEGRAMS.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, UNITED STATES SIGNAL SERVICE, PITTSBURGH, PA., January 29, 1877.

The following is a daily report of the stage of water, with changes in the twenty-four hours ending at 3 P. M.:

STATIONS.	ABOVE L'W W'S	CHANGE IN—	FALL	TEM	STATE OF WEATHER.

CITY MATTERS.

For seventy-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

The Commercial in the East End.

S. W. Armor is the authorized agent for THE COMMERCIAL in the East End, and all persons wishing it served daily at their residence or place of business, will please leave their order at the ... Liberty Station News Stand, and it will be served regularly at fifteen cents per week, payable to the agent.

Weather Report.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., ROOM 25, FIRST NATIONAL BANK, PITTSBURGH, PA., January 29, 1877.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	Wind. Dir.	Wind. Miles p hour	Weath.
7 A. M.	30 190	38	71	S. W.	8	Clear.
2 P. M.	30 190	51	46	W.	11	Clear.
9 P. M.	30 274	41	65	W.	6	Smoke.

Mean barometer...30.233 Highest thermom... 51
Mean thermom.... 42.7 Lowest thermom.... 38

WAR DEPARTMENT,
SIGNAL SERVICE U. S. ARMY,
PITTSBURGH, January 29, 1877, 10:45 P. M.

Cairo, Ills.—Ther. 51; wind S.; cloudy.
Cincinnati—Ther. 43; wind S.; foggy.
Davenport, Ia.—Ther. 43; wind S.; cloudy.
Denver, Col.—Ther. 35; wind S. W.; clear.
Indianapolis—Ther. 45; cloudy.
Keokuk, Iowa—Ther. 36; wind S.; cloudy.
Lawrenceburgh, Kan.—Ther. 57; wind S.; cloudy.
Louisville—Ther. 48; cloudy.
Memphis, Tenn.—Ther. 52; wind S.; fair.
Nashville—Ther. 50; cloudy.
Omaha, Neb.—Ther. 45; foggy.
Pittsburgh—Ther. 40; wind W.; smoke.
Portland, Oregon—Ther. 49; wind N.; cloudy.
Salt Lake City—Ther. 30; wind N.; light rain.
San Diego, Cal.—Ther. 57; wind S.; cloudy.
San Francisco, Cal.—Ther. 59; wind S.; cloudy.
Santa Fe, N. M.—Ther. 34; wind N.; cloudy.
Shreveport, La.—Ther. 52; clear.
St. Louis, Mo.—Ther. 51; wind S.; cloudy.
Vicksburg, Miss.—Ther. 57; wind S. E.; fair.
Virginia City, Nev.—Ther. 26; sleet.
Fort Gibson—Ther. 57, wind S.; cloudy.

The Fire Marshalship.

The committee appointed by the Board of Underwriters to select candidates for the office of Fire Marshal, met yesterday and named the following: J. E. Stevenson, Joseph M. Carson and W. H. Mechling.

The College Journal.

The January number of the interesting paper published by the students of the Western University has been received. Its contents are of a character that attracts the attention of students and educators, and we can heartily commend it to all such.

Dr. Banning's Lecture.

There was a large audience at Library Hall last evening, to hear the first of a series of lectures by Dr. Banning, of New York, entitled "The Mystery of the Vital Organs Unfolded." The lecture was very interesting. The Doctor will deliver one of his lectures to ladies only this afternoon, and another to both sexes this evening.

Against Murphy.

Rev. P. Gibbs, pastor of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Seventeenth ward, denounces those Catholics who attend the Murphy meetings. He declares that they are unfaithful to their teachings, and that they dishonor their religion as well as Divine Providence in taking part in such temperance convocations. His utterance on the subject have excited keen comment.

Allegheny Death Record.

During last week eighteen deaths occurred in Allegheny from the following causes as reported by Dr. Cole: Capillary bronchitis, 1; consumption, 3; convulsions, 3; diphtheritis, 2; chronic gastritis, 1; hypestrophy of heart, 1; valvular disease of heart 1; inanition, 1; invagination, 1; smallpox, 3; whooping cough, 1. Total sex—males, 12; females, 12; married, 4; single, 13; widows, 1.

The Temperance Alliance.

A meeting of the Temperance Alliance was held yesterday, and a resolution was adopted appointing Messrs. Hershberger, Turner and Warren a committee to invite some suitable person to prepare an essay or address on the topic "How shall the Church of Christ most efficiently work against the liquor traffic," to be delivered or read on Monday next before the Alliance. It was resolved that half an hour be allowed for the essay or debate, five minute speeches to follow for the succeeding half hour.

Allegheny Base Ball Club.

At a meeting of the Allegheny Base Ball Club last evening, the following persons were elected Directors: H. D. McKnight, Theodore Myler, T. H. Hunter, W. H. McCleary, W. D. Spiking, John R. Brown, J. A. Chambers. Subsequently the new Board organized and elected officers as follows: President, H. D. McKnight; Secretary, C. C. Bergstresser; Treasurer, C. C. Heizel. Captain McKnight was appointed to represent the club at the convention to be held at the St. Clair Hotel, this city, on the 20th prox.

The Courts

Very little of interest transpired in the courts yesterday. In the Common Pleas No. 1, the argument in the Moore *Post* libel suit was opened by Mr. Marshall, who spoke for three-quarters of an hour, at the close of which the court adjourned to enable the members of the bench and bar to attend the funeral of the father of Judge Stowe. At the opening of court this morning at half-past nine o'clock, Mr. Gibson will speak for the defense and will be followed by Mr. Hampton. Mr. Swartzwelder will close for the plaintiff. Each speaker will occupy three-quarters of an hour.

The Criminal Court was not in session yesterday.

Allegheny Council Committees.

The following is the business transacted at a meeting of the Committee on Surveys last evening: A resolution ins ructing the City Solicitor to take steps to have the report of viewers on the opening of Howard street quashed was recommended to Councils for adoption. Lindsay, Hiber and Smith were appointed a committee to examine and report as to the advisability of changing the line of Superior Run avenue. The committee ask an appropriation of $2,500 for the current year.

A sub-committee from the Committee on Parks met last evening and adopted a draft of a bill to be introduced in the Legislature for passage giving the Park Committee power to levy taxes for park purposes. The sub-committee also prepared an ordinance providing for the election of park officers.

The Bond of Friendship Case.

In the suit of the Pearson Cordage Company against William Frew, administrator of James McCully, to attach the "bond of friendship" money, Mr. Frew, the garnishee of R. D. Clark, has filed his answer in the United States Circuit Court. He says he owes Clark but $75,000, being the amount of the "bond of friendship." From this is to be deducted $35,000—notes which Mr. McCully indorsed for Clark and paid. He proposes also to retain $20,000 to secure the estate in the matter of a bond of that amount on which Mr. McCully placed his name with that of Clark. The balance of the $75,000 has been assigned and attached at different times, the dates and amounts being given. Among the larger sums are $10,000 to M. W. Acheson, $13,700 to the M. and M. Bank, $5,000 to James P. Hanna. The claim of the Cordage Company against Clark is $3,076.

A Printer Attempts Suicide.

Walter Davis, a job printer, residing at Homewood station, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, attempted to commit suicide yesterday morning by cutting his throat with a razor. The unfortunate man had formerly worked for Messrs. W. G. Johnson & Co., but for some time past has been out of employment. His destitute condition had a very depressing effect upon his mind, and doubtless prompted him to the deed. He rose about eight o'clock in the morning and went down stairs to kindle a fire. His wife followed him in a short time, and upon entering the kitchen discovered him lying on the floor with a terrible gash cut in his throat. A razor lying beside him convinced her that the wound had been inflicted by his own hand. Dr. D. M. Marchand was summoned and dressed the wound, which is of a dangerous character and will probably result fatally.

The Coroner's Expenses.

The Coroner recently addressed a communication to the County Controller and Commissioners requesting information as to whether the county could allow him his actual expenses incurred in the conduct of the duties of his office. In March last, the Legislature abolished mileage fees, the act to take effect on the entrance into office of new incumbents, and to continue thereafter. The Coroner gets a salary of $2,000, on condition that his office returns that much revenue a year. The county allows him a certain amount for each inquest held, and if the number of inquests each year will not yield him $2,000, he retains only the amount of money his inquests bring him; but if the number of inquests is large, and is sufficient to yield him more than $2,000, then the county retains the excess. Under no circumstances, it will be seen, can he make more than $2,000, while it is quite possible, and it is frequently the case, that his income will not reach $2,000. The Coroner is frequently called to distant parts of the county, and is required at present to pay the expenses out of his own pocket. He therefore thinks that it would be only fair that the county pay his actual expenses, otherwise his office will be worth nothing to him at all.

His communication was referred to Stephen H. Geyer, Esq., County Solicitor, who submitted an opinion yesterday, in which he construes the act of Assembly to exclude the county from complying with the request of the Coroner.

THE POLICE IMBROGLIO.

Resignation of Chief Hartzell—His Letter to the Mayor—The Mayor's Reply and the Chief's Statement.

There seems to be a general breaking up of the "relationships" heretofore existing between the Mayor and his chief officers of the police. Quickly following the suspension of detective O'Mara, until he can clear up the Ellis-Ferguson matter, is the resignation of Major Hartzell, Chief of Police. This action was in consequence of a notification from the Mayor that the Chief was suspended until an investigation could be had upon two charges—for an alleged attempt to assist an ex-officer to secure a reward for arresting Matson, and for having appropriated to his own use a sum of money belonging to another party. The fact soon became known that the Mayor had demanded an investigation, and he was solicited by the reporters of the press to state the reasons, but declined. Questioning of Major Hartzell, that gentleman stated that he had sent his resignation to the Mayor, and suggested that it be published. The reporters then requested the letter for publication, but it was declined by the Mayor. He also stated that he had no doubt a copy could be had from Major Hartzell. On being solicited for a copy, the ex-Chief cheerfully furnished it for publication, as follows:

MAJOR HARTZELL TO THE MAYOR.

OFFICE CHIEF OF POLICE,
PITTSBURGH, January 29, 1877.

Hon. W. C. McCarthy, Mayor:

SIR:—I am in receipt of a communication from your Clerk, notifying me of my suspension from duty 'until an investigation can be had of the following charges against me:

"1. The article in the Sunday morning *Leader*, of January 28, 1877, referring to your [my] connection in the case of Matson, the defaulting cashier of Gildenfenney & Co.

"2. The allegation that you have taken money placed in your custody as Mayor's Clerk belonging to another party, and appropriating the same to your own use."

An investigation of these charges at *your hands*, I must decline.

The first charge I regard as frivolous, and has already been sufficiently explained by me. The second charge is a serious one, but I stand ready to answer it before a higher court.

It is not too much for me to say that my suspension from duty, and the bringing of the charges mentioned against me, result from my concern in the Ferguson-Ellis case, tried in the Criminal Court last week. It is no secret that I aided Detective Dressler in searching out the facts brought for h at the trial, and in so doing I well knew I was incurring your displeasure. My suspension is but a blind. In any event, my fate was sealed, so far as you were concerned.

Permit me, therefore, to submit this, my unconditional resignation. I will take this occasion to say, with all the emphasis of which the assertion is capable, that I find it necessary for me to resign the office of Chief of Police, under your appointment, to the end that I may save to myself my own self respect. That it is not necessary for me to specify more particularly than I have what impels me to this course of action, it is well known to you as it is to me, and with this perfect and mutual understanding of affairs, that may yet result in serious annoyance to others than myself, you can well conceive why it is no longer possible for me to retain the position which I now hold. Yours,

WILL M. HARTZELL.

THE MAYOR'S REPLY.

At a later hour the Chief received the following:

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
PITTSBURGH, January 29, 1877.

Will M. Hartzell:

SIR—Your communication of this date, tendering your resignation as Chief of Police, has been received, and your resignation has been accepted.

In answer to the accusation "that the bringing of charges against you results from your concern in the Ferguson-Ellis case," this is not true. Whatever steps you have taken to bring Mr. Ferguson or any other officer to punishment, meets with my hearty approval. Yours, respectfully,

WM. C. MCCARTHY.

It was evident, from the tenor of the above correspondence, that the "true inwardness" of the imbroglio had not been made public, but was only hinted at. There was a pressure brought upon the ex-Chief, by the representatives of the press, for further information in regard to the difficulty between the Mayor and himself, and in response he made the following

STATEMENT.

After reading the note, the Chief said that before receiving it he had no knowledge that his action in the Ferguson case was approved by the Mayor. He then proceeded to say that he had reason to believe and did believe that his action in the case was disapproved by Mr. McCarthy, and that in every step he took in the case, from the commencement until the close of trial, was watched. "I was shadowed," said the Chief, "and knowing this, took necessary precautions. I was aware of the intimacy and close association of several of the detectives with Ellis and Ferguson, and with Ferguson previous to Ellis' discharge from the Penitentiary. I also knew that they visited Ferguson's saloon, and whatever I may have thought of this course on their part, I did not feel called upon to express myself, for the reason that I knew the Mayor was cognizant of the fact, and that it was no secret. The detectives referred to are Roger O'Mara, Philip Demmel and Charles McGovern. I have no knowledge that any of the other front office men visited Ferguson's place. O'Mara, I know, has been on intimate terms with Ferguson for more than a year. He was acquainted with him before I became Chief. I never had any reason to believe or suspect, until recently, that O'Mara was dealing with Ferguson improperly. I had no reason to think that he was using him in the discharge of his duty as a detective. I know of O'Mara having received information from Ferguson which led to the arrest of a number of "crooked" men—professionals from abroad and others. They were given away by Ferguson. I remember of a circumstance having been detailed to me by him in particulars of which I cannot reveal, but recollect distinctly the Mayor's remark, "that he (Ferguson) must be protected."

THE BOGGS & BUHL ROBBERY.

In regard to the Boggs & Buhl robbery, the first information I received was on the morning after the occurrence. One of the proprietors came to my office and requested me to send some of our officers over to Allegheny to see about it. I complied with the request, and sent O'Mara, Demmel and nearly all the balance of the front office force. In the evening of the same day I received a telegram from Philadelphia, from Detective Ben Franklin, requesting me to send him a description of the stolen goods, for an assigned reason of his own. I at once detailed Detective Demmel to Allegheny to get the required list. He reported to me that the firm declined to give it, and told him to tell me, in confidence, that it was unnecessary, as they knew where the goods were placed; that Allegheny officers were watching them. They refused to state the location of the goods further than to say that they were in a room in Pittsburgh not far from the Mayor's office. Without any instruction of interfering with the Allegheny officers I set to work to ascertain where this room was in which the goods were. All of the front office men started out in pursuit of the information. Up to eleven o'clock, so far as I knew, no information had been gained, and I went home. The following Friday morning, when I arrived at the Central Station Lieutenant Carey was in waiting for me. He stated that he had discovered the whereabouts of the goods. It is learned from the watchman of English's building, on Fourth avenue, that on the previous Wednesday evening a vehicle, with a little grey pony attached, and two men accompanying it had stopped in front of the building, and two valises, a trunk and a package were carried up the stairs into a room, and that five Allegheny officers had been watching the goods all night, expecting to catch the parties that placed them there. I communicated this information first to the Mayor and next to Officer O'Mara. Nothing particular was said, no suspicion expressed as to who the parties were who committed the robbery, but very soon afterwards an inquiry was made as to the name of an official of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railway. Officer O'Mara went away; left the city for Uniontown.

I saw no more of him after early on Friday morning until Saturday evening. During the remainder of Friday morning the reporters of the afternoon papers, from some source, obtained an inkling of the discovery made as to the robbery, and interviewed me about it. I declined to enlighten them. About one o'clock they concluded to publish the facts in their possession. The Mayor endeavored to have them defer the publication until the last edition of their papers.

THE LITTLE GREY PONY.

About two o'clock the Mayor left the office and in the course of half an hour returned; came in my office and, seemingly, laboring under considerable excitement, remarked, "We've got the Boggs & Buhl robbers, and not one of you knew anything about it." "Who are they?" said I. "Ferguson and Ellis," he replied, adding, "the little grey pony did it all." Nothing further was said, and presently I went into the Mayor's private office, and said to him, "You've got the thieves. Now, the next thing is to get the little grey pony." He replied that he had instructed Officer McGovern to attend to that. I said that I did not think McGovern so understood him. I then immediately proceeded to the corner of Fourth avenue and Market street, saw Officer George Johnson there, and asked him "Has Ferguson got a grey pony?" He replied that he had. "Do you know where it is?" said I. "Yes, in Sanhow's (Crager's) stable," he answered. Then we went to the stable and got the pony; locked it up. As we were leading the pony to Fourth avenue, we met Officers Demmel and McGovern. I directed Officer Johnson to place it in his private stable, subject to my order, and I returned to the office and reported to the Mayor that the pony was in custody. Officer Johnson next recovered the harness in Ferguson's house, and I took charge of it. The chain of evidence was completed by the finding of the wagon. At the instance of the Mayor Ferguson was taken from the lock-up by Officer Scott, and by this means the place where the wagon had been obtained was discovered. From circumstances which came to my knowledge, I need not say how, nor what they were, I could not understand what was in the wind. Things looked to me very suspicious, and I determined to get to the bottom of the mystery if possible. Previous to the hearing of Ferguson and Ellis, I hitched the pony to the wagon, took it to Allegheny, and placing it in the position in which it was said to have been hitched, and called the attention of people who thought they saw it on the night of the robbery, so that it might be identified. I also took it to the other places where it had been seen, for the purpose of identification. I also procured a lock that had been used on the door of the room where the goods were secreted, and endeavored with the aid of Officer Messner to fasten its purchase upon Ferguson and Ellis.

THE CHIEF MAKES A DISCOVERY.

In the course of my operations I discovered that my exertions were not appreciated. There was a counter-current that I failed to understand, and I ceased further efforts. The hearing came off, I was present, and Ferguson's discharge was no surprise to me. I thought I saw the bottom of it. In regard to the finding of the indictment against Ferguson I had nothing whatever to do. County Detective Dressler first informed me of the finding of the true bill against Ferguson, and remarked to me that he did not know who to trust at the Mayor's office, outside of myself. I told him that if I could be of any service, in any way, he could command me. I told Officer Dressler in every way in my power to secure the arrest of Ferguson, to secure his rearrest after his escape from the court room, and to gather up the facts necessary for his conviction. I also asked him to look more sleep, than in all my previous experience in the police business, and all this, without any co-operation whatever, in any way, from the Mayor or Officers Hays, Demmel or McGovern. In fact I found it necessary to conceal what I was doing from these persons in every way possible. Upon Officer Dressler's arrival from Steubenville with Ferguson in charge, I met him and accompanied him to to the county prison. Officer Dressler related to me what had occurred between him and Ferguson, and rehearsed to me a statement that Ferguson had made to him, which I believe to be true, from corroborating circumstances, and which more than confirms the opinion I entertained in regard to the attitude of the Mayor and the three officers named, in connection with the case, and justified the precaution I had exercised in aiding Officer Dressler.

THE NEW CHIEF.

The Mayor has appointed detective Demmel to succeed Chief Hartzell. The resignation of the Chief takes any investigation out of the hands of the Mayor, so far as he is concerned; but the more serious charge, that of misappropriating money, Major Hartzell expresses his readiness to answer in court, if any one wishes to test the matter there. Thus the matter stands at present writing. The investigation in the case of officer O'Mara has been fixed for Monday next.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Meeting of the Board of Directors—Municipal Affairs—The Silver Bill—Interesting Discussion.

A regular meeting of the directors of the Chamber of Commerce was held yesterday afternoon. There were present Messrs. Marvin, Meyran, McCreary, Dravo, Carpenter, Kelly, Hallman, Seibeneck and Howe, President.

Mr. Meyran, Treasurer, reported a balance on hand of $142 26, but that the Chamber had liabilities to the amount of about $900.

On motion the Executive Committee in conjunction with the Superintendent was instructed to report a list of members and show the prospect for the ensuing year.

Mr. Carpenter offered the following:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chair to secure such accommodations, for the next session of this Board, and the most advantageous terms possible, for meetings of this board, and report before making any definite recommendations, and at least thirty days before our present lease expires.

The resolution was adopted, and Messrs. Carpenter, Hallman and Meyran were appointed the committee.

On motion of Mr. Hallman the Chair was authorized to appoint and announce at next meeting committees to collect subscriptions from different branches of trade.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

A member stated that it had been suggested that the Chamber take some action regarding municipal affairs. A member of a prominent business firm was now present, and the speaker asked that he be heard.

On being introduced, the gentleman said that he was lately asked to subscribe to the Chamber of Commerce, but had declined to do so because he saw no benefit from it. To day it had been suggested to him by a newspaper man that the Chamber might aid toward better municipal government, induce men who don't want office to take them for the honor and good of the people. Business men were particularly interested. The Chamber had taken part for the Electoral bill, and why not in municipal affairs?

Mr. McCreary said there was a gap between the business men and the politicians. At the last meeting of the board the members unanimously signed in favor of the compromise bill. He thought it well that business men should take an interest in municipal affairs. For his part he could vote for a good Republican.

On motion it was decided to call a full board meeting to consider the subject, on Thursday afternoon next.

Mr. Hallman suggested that an expression might be given on the bill to allow the tax payers to divide the tax bills of the year. No action.

Mr. Hallman also wanted the Chamber to take some interest in the general business of the city. In a few days the COMMERCIAL would print its annual Review of the Trade of Pittsburgh. All knew of the value of this elaborately and carefully prepared article in obtaining the trade of the city. He thought the Chamber ought to purchase copies and have them distributed throughout the country.

On motion it was decided to order 500 copies of the COMMERCIAL containing the article referred to.

THE SILVER BILL.

Mr. Hallman also called attention to the fact that the Silver bill had passed the House and was now before the Senate at Washington. Mr. Sherman, it was said, proposed to offer an amendment providing that for every silver dollar issued a paper dollar should be retired. It seemed to the speaker that the sentiment of the community was in favor of the bill, and he moved that the Chamber express itself in favor of the bill as it passed the House.

Mr. McCreary seconded the motion, and said he never could understand how it was that a paper dollar was a legal tender when a silver dollar was not, or why a silver dollar was not as good as a paper dollar.

Mr. Seibeneck did not think hasty action should be taken. It was well known that there had been a wide fluctuation in silver.

Mr. Marvin thought the motion too broad. For himself he would prefer greenbacks to silver.

Mr. Hallman said Mr. Marvin's view was incorrect, in this, that while he may personally prefer paper, the question was what is best for the country. The free coinage question of silver had done great harm. This great nation decried one of its greatest productions. While we take millions and millions of silver, the Government said you needn't mine any more of that! Why, the very object of the Government should be to encourage mining. If we don't have use for all, China and India will be glad to get it.

Mr. Howe—'s a big question, gentlemen. There has been great harm done to the demonetization of silver. We make the largest production of silver of any nation in the world.

After some further discussion the matter was postponed until next meeting.

Adjourned.

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION.

The Ignition of Gas at a Well in the Oil Regions Results in the Blowing up of a Dwelling—A Lady Fatally Injured, and Two Men Badly Burned.

A special dispatch to the COMMERCIAL from Parker last evening says:

A very remarkable accident occurred at Fairview, about a mile from Petrolia, between eleven and twelve o'clock last night, at the house of Robert Patton. The Rev. Mr. Decker, who resides directly opposite the house, came down stairs and asked Mrs. Patton, who was in the sitting room with her husband, to give him some oil for his German student's lamp. Mrs. Patton took a lamp in her hand and was going down into the cellar, when a terrific explosion occurred, throwing the lady down, tearing up the floors and bursting out the ends and side of the house, while Messrs. Patton and Decker fell through into the cellar. The kitchen stove fell on Mrs. Patton, causing a wound of the scalp four by six inches, denuding but not fracturing the skull, and also seriously injuring her spine. She is badly burned on the face, neck, hands, arms and lower extremities, and it is thought her injuries will result fatally. Rev. Decker is badly burned on the face, hands and arms, and the hair is burned from his head. Mr. Patton is less seriously injured. They were speedily rescued from the cellar.

Much excitement prevailed, the impression being abroad that a nitro-glycerine explosion had occurred. The cause of the accident was natural gas escaping from a well formerly used by the family and located about four or five feet from the cellar.

Local Option Convention.

On Thursday next the Local Option advocates will hold a convention in Lafayette Hall, and there are indications of a large attendance and marked interest in the the proceedings. There will be three sessions, beginning in the morning at half-past ten, in the afternoon at two, and in the evening at half-past seven o'clock. A number of distinguished speakers will be present. The programme will be announced to-morrow.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Regular Meeting Yesterday—Election of Health Officers—Appointment of Standing Committees, &c., &c.

A regular semi-monthly meeting of City Councils was held yesterday afternoon.

SELECT BRANCH.

This branch was called to order at 2 P. M. by President Aiken.

The annual report of the Board of Assessors was read and received. The report is not complete, no returns having been received from twelve wards.

Under the call of wards a lot of petitions, etc., were presented and referred. Among the more important papers were a petition for the purchase of that portion of the Washington pike which lies in the city; ordinances for the better protection of city funds, fixing the salary of the Message Clerk to Councils, creating a Board of Estimate for the Board of Health and authorizing the Controller to pay matured temporary loans from the city sinking fund.

A resolution was adopted providing that the City Attorney, Clerks of Councils and Finance Committee shall report on the expediency, probable cost and proper persons to get up a new digest. Another resolution was adopted providing that appeals be referred to the Board of Assessors for action.

THE SINKING FUND.

Mr. J. K. P. Duff presented the following:

Resolved, That a select committee of seven be appointed, three from Select and four from Common Council, to inquire and report what moneys or securities are in the various sinking funds of the city, and what the securities are there be in said sinking funds, consist of, and whether or not the various acts of Assembly and ordinances under which said sinking funds were authorized and established, have been literally complied with. The resolution was adopted.

After the transaction of minor business Council adjourned.

COMMON BRANCH.

This body was called to order at two P. M., President Negley in the chair.

Under the call of wards ordinances, petitions, etc., were presented as follows and referred to the proper committees: Ordinance for vacation of Hill street; petition of Patrick Mooney for exoneration of; petition of Jacob Schill for refunding overpaid taxes; ordinance for the opening of Reservoir avenue to Railroad avenue; ordinance for the opening of Centre avenue, from Neville street to Liberty street; petition for grade upon Brookridge street; a resolution for a warrant in favor of John C. Keefe, assignee of H. Freyvogle; ordinance for boardwalk on Knox avenue; ordinance for assessment of benefits and damages by grading Juliana street, from Shingiss street to Miltenberger street; ordinance for opening Forty-seventh street from south side of Allegheny Valley Railroad to north side of same; ordinance for opening of Woodville avenue extension from Washington pike to Shalersville; ordinance for assessing cost of construction of a bridge over Boundary street on line of Forbes street; ordinance for assessment of cost of construction of a bridge over Negley's run, on line of Lincoln avenue; petition of John Kane for reduction of assessment; petition of John Anderson for refunding overpaid taxes; petition of Board of Managers of St. James church, Thirty-sixth ward, for abatement of taxes on church property.

Mr. Rahauser presented the report of viewers on the opening of Station street from Frankstown avenue to Pennsylvania Railroad. Approved.

Also, report of viewers on opening of Knox avenue, from Brownsville road to the city limits. Approved.

Also, report of viewers on the opening of Osage lane, from Penn avenue to line of property of Stacy Lloyd's heirs.

At this time the Councils went into joint session, and at the close of the same, without transacting further business, Common Council adjourned.

Joint Session.

Councils held a joint session, with Mr. Aiken presiding.

The Clerk read a communication from Health Officer Gray announcing that the terms of Messrs. Jared M. Brush, G. W. Backofen and Dr. T. P. Graham had expired as members of the Board of Health.

NEW HEALTH OFFICERS.

The Chair announced that nominations to fill the vacancies were in order, and Messrs. Jared M. Brush, Dr. Graham, G. W. Backofen and W. W. Logan were nominated. The only rivalry was between Messrs. Logan and Backofen. The first ballot resulted as follows: Logan, 76; Brush, 74; Graham, 61; Backofen, 42. Fifty-eight votes were required for an election, and Messrs. Logan, Brush and Graham having each received more than that number were declared duly elected. Their terms are for three years.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

The appointments to different committees were then read, as follows:

FINANCE—*Select*—Shipton, Littell, Negley, McClurg, Lapman, A. W. Foster, Jr., Owens, Herron, Nisbit. *Common*—Aull, French, Gallisath, Johnston, McCafferty, Rauhauser, Thomson, Voskamp, Wainwright.

STREETS—*Select*—Ahl, Dannels, Darlington, McClurg, Taylor, Gourley, Moore, Rodgers, Buckley, Schild, Hailman, Carr, Nisbet, Burns, Sawyer. *Common*—Thomson, Aull, Egan, Fennerty, Foley, Frauenheim, Gallaher, Higgins, Kirchner, McCafferty, Rea, Voskamp, Wainwright, Walker, Thirty second ward Councilman.

WATER—*Select*—McCandless, Hunter, E. M. O'Neil, Kennedy, Boyd, Welch, Fullerton, Wason, Taylor, Bruce. *Common*—Foley, French, Hanlon, Kemler, Kohne, McCafferty, R. M. McClarren, Rea, Schwarm, Wainwright, Negley.

POLICE—*Select*—Darlington, McCandless, Atkinson, Ahl, Rolfe, Fox, Barclay, Miller, McKinley, John O'Neil, Kernan, Patterson. *Common*—Neeb, Belfore, Biume, Foley, Hanlon, Higgins, Kemler, Kirchner, O'Donnell, Schwarm, Thomson, Wainwright.

MARKETS—*Select*—Moore, Dannals, Vierheller, John O'Neil, Schwarm, Schild, Duff. *Common*—Belfore, Gallisaith, Johnston, Kinzer, Schuman, Walker, Wamhoff, Weisser.

PAVING—*Select*—E. M. O'Neil, W. H. Nantker, Kelly, Lambie, Owens, Griffith. *Common*—Gallisaith, Campbell, Kohne, H. Nantker, Pier, Schwarm Wamhoff.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:—*Select*—Welch, Rodgers, Sorg, Meyers, Kennedy, Duff. *Common*—Diersi, Egan, Kirchner, Rea, Young, Thirty-second ward.

ORDINANCES—*Select*—Kerr, Powers, MacConnell, Gray, Watson, Sterling. *Common*—Biume, Frauenheim, Kemler, Manning, Miller, H. Nantker, Thomson.

APPEALS:—*Select*—Gallisath, Sawyer, Foster, Miller, Carr, Noble, Lagerman. *Common*—Belfore, Dierst, Kinzer, McCafferty, O'Donnell, Weisser, Young, Thirty-second ward Councilman.

GAS:—*Select*—Shipton, Littell, McKinley, L. T. Brown, Bradly, Buckley. *Common*—Biume, Egan, Forsyth, Kohne, Manning, N. McClarren, R. M. McClarren.

ROADS: — *Select*—MacConnell, Sterling, Baum, Evans, Hoeh. *Common* — Aull, Kinzer, Kohne, R. M. McClarren, Pier.

SURVEYS:—*Select*—H. Negley, Atkinson, Hoeh, Baum, Powers, Fox, S. S. Brown, *Common*—Aull, Forsyth, French, Gallagher, Manning, McCafferty, N. McClarren, Shuman.

RETRENCHMENT AND REFORM:—*Select*—Gray, W. H. Nantker, Patterson, Foster, Lagerman. *Common* — Wamhoff, Gallagher, Hanlon, Higgins, H. Nantker, Pier.

BRIDGES:—*Select* — Holliday, Kernan. *Common*—Forsyth, Frauenheim, Hogle.

WOODEN BUILDINGS:—*Select* — Noble, Nusser, Felker. *Common*—Higgins, Hogle, Miller, O'Donnel.

RAILROADS: — *Select* — Felker, Nusser Evans, Mayer, Kelley, Foster. *Common*—Gallisaith, Kirschner, Manning, Rahauser, Schuman, Young.

MONONGAHELA WHARF:—*Select*—Rolfe, Griffith, S. S. Brown, Vierheller, Bradley, L. T. Brown. *Common*—Campbell, Dierst. French, Foley, Kemler, Miller, Wamhoff.

ALLEGHENY WHARF:—*Select*—Darron, Hillman, Schwarm, Burns, Boyd. *Common*—Egan, Fennerty, Forsyth, Higgins, Thirty second ward member.

LEGISLATION:— *Select* — Bruce, Kerr. *Common*—Kinzer, R. M. McClarren, Rahauser.

CITY DEPOSITORIES.

The joint session went into an election for city depositories for the ensuing year. The following bids were read from the different banks offering to pay the following rates for the custody of the city funds: Pittsburgh Savings Bank, 2½ per cent.; Smithfield National Bank, 2 per cent.; United States Bank, 2 per cent. The ordinance requires the election of three banks at a stipulated time, and some discussion arose as to whether the election could not be postponed until further bids could be received. The rates offered were not satisfactory, but whether the law there could be no postponement. A ballot was then taken but many members refused to vote. The highest vote received was 48, too few for an election, and no ballot was then taken.

A motion was made to adjourn when the ballot was announced and as the motion prevailed there was still no election, although the law required it. The City Treasurer and the Finance Committee have the power to deposit the funds under a recent ordinance, so that the city funds in all probability will be deposited in the banks selected last year.

Adjourned.

Two More of That Gang Captured.

The Johnstown *Tribune* of Saturday says:

Two more of the Mardis gang of counterfeiters were arrested in Clearfield county, yesterday, and securely lodged in the prison at Ebensburg. Constable Pringle, of Wilmore, with the assistance of the United States detective, who is working up the matter, succeeded in making the capture, and it is believed that some very important additional developments will be made by them which will lead to the taking of several other hardened criminals in the counterfeiting line. Considerable feeling of the individuals before United States Commissioner Rutledge as soon as they are brought down. The man who was arrested night before last, and whose house is near Brickdale furnace, was released yesterday evening on bail—security having been given by Messrs. Dill and Wilson for his appearance when wanted. The confident expectation of the officers is that the gang who have carried on their nefarious practices so long will now be broken up.

A WORD to the wise. If you are troubled with a cough or cold, procure a bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup at once. Its use may save you from severe sickness. Your druggist keeps it. Price, 25 cents.

THE SCHOOL BOOK BILL.

An Amendment Suggested

The bill introduced by Mr. Mitchell, in the House, to prohibit the change of text books in the public schools oftener than one in a period of six years, is being widely discussed among school directors and the public generally. Some think the present law sufficient, while others favor the longer term. A prominent educator, however, with whom we conversed yesterday, suggests an amendment which, while it will not impair the spirit and purpose of the bill, will furnish an opportunity for making needed changes in districts where the same books have been in use for ten and even fifteen years. He states that there are many districts, outside the cities and towns of the State, where the same books have been in use from ten to eighteen years, and some of them might not wish to continue them six years longer. The bill prohibits any change inside of six years, and provides that all books in use in the public schools, on the third Monday in June, 1877, shall be continued in use for and during the term of six years from that date. The suggestion is that the latter clause be stricken out. The effect of the bill then would simply be to extend the period, within which a change could be made, from three years, as now provided by law, to six years. If the clause referred to were stricken out, then school boards in districts where the books have already been in use over six years could make such changes as were necessary, to take effect at the school law, throughout the State generally, the term of directors commences on the first Monday in June, and they have ten days in which to organize. The boards could not possibly make any change in text books before the time of organization and the third Monday of June, which will be the 18th; and of course all books then in use, if the clause stands, would have to remain unchanged for six years longer. In this city and in Allegheny the boards organize in January, so that the suggestion does not concern our people directly.

The Grand Jury.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

As there is just now some inquiry for information as to the true position of the Grand Jury in our judicial system, as well as of the power with which it is clothed, I propose contributing something in this communication towards satisfying public desire on the subject.

We find, as far back as the time of Ethelred, about the year 870, that laws were enacted providing for the assembling of juries of twelve men, who were sworn "on the relic" "that they would accuse no innocent man, nor conceal any crime." This indicated a wide latitude of power, wider indeed in one respect than the Grand Juries of to-day possess; and in order fully to comprehend the latter part of their obligation it is necessary to state that at that time England was not yet cumbered with many written laws, consequently had neither a special class of men to expound them, nor one to thrive on their quirks and quillets. The whole judicial organization, (with the exception of the *curia regis* or royal courts,) appears to have been confined to the above simple plan, for the purpose of meting out justice to the people; and these juries were not only accusers or witnesses, but also judges, to pass sentence upon those whom they had just convicted of crime.

As the centuries rolled on population increased, and more intricate business transactions between man and man demanded the enactment of more precise laws, which in turn created a necessity for men of legal education. The jury, although undergoing changes from time to time in the number of its constituents, as well as in its functions, was never superceded, but was gradually split into two parts, the one continuing as a grand jury, with the power of general supervisor and accuser, while the duty of the other was simply to give judgment or doom in each specific case, after hearing all the evidence.

A curious branch of the judicial machinery has existed for a long time, was a certain number of sworn witnesses for each district (the "unlying" men), whose business it was to attest all kinds of transactions about which there might arise legal disputes. The almost universal ignorance of writing at that time required some contrivance for substantiating business matters, and the presence of one or two of these public witnesses was required to prove the fact.

Although the grand jury as an institution was firmly fixed in England long before the time of the settlement of New England and Pennsylvania, and no English judge ever dreamed of calling in question their lawful independence of action, yet there were times when these judges, either of their own accord or at the instigation of the King, endeavored to browbeat or intimidate them into improper action; and Forsyth, in his "Trial by Jury," very truly says, "there have undoubtedly been periods in our history when it was very necessary that the shield of the grand jury should be interposed between the crown and the subject;" and he specifies a notable case of the sort, when in spite of the most nefarious efforts on the part of the judges to coerce them, they stood as a rampart between tyranny and the people.

When men left England for homes in New England and Pennsylvania, it was not of choice, but of persecution. While the institution of the grand jury could defy the malevolence of judge or king, the petit jury could not, and here there could be no foundation. It was coerced time